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ISSN 1753-121-7



Richard Reeses smokes a cigarette in full view of the public in the food court of Ashford Designer Outlet last Friday. Security guards at the outlet just walked off when he refused to extinguish his nicotine-fix

EXCLUSIVE

■ BY EMILY HALL

A MILITANT smoker is touring the county and filming himself sparking up in public places to prove that the smoking ban is a flop.

Richard Preece has already tried puffing his Blue Windsors in shopping centres, council offices and police stations and, more recently, decided to try a quick fag in a magistrates court.

But despite hundreds of examples of public smoking, the 6ft 4ins tall nicotine-addict has yet to be given a single caution or fine and security patrols have never even moved him on.

The 25-year-old photographer said: "I hated the smoking ban from the start, but I became concerned when people, like pub landlords, started losing their livelihoods because of it.

"I decided to break the ban in the hope that I would get fined and I could then take it to court and fight it, because I simply do not believe these laws could be upheld.

"They are a breach of human rights."

Mr Preece, who is single, has smoked 20 a day since he was 18 and started his crusade in the Mall Chequers shopping centre in Maidstone last month, where he twice clashed with security.

But despite standing among shoppers, the chain-smoking snapper was only asked to smoke outside, a request he ignored.

A few weeks later he took a walk around the Maidstone Gateway - home to hundreds of borough council workers - but he was able to smoke an entire fag in view of officers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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Widdecombe is sure public will turn out to vote

■ BY ANNA WHITE

VOTERS will go to the polls tomorrow to decide the fate of the county council candidates.

People will have their chance to vote for who they want to represent them at County Hall from 7am-10pm on Thursday.

With the recent MPs expenses scandal damaging the public's trust in Government it is feared it could affect the local elections and people might not vote at all.

But the Conservative MP for Maidstone and the Weald, Ann Widdecombe, believes her constituents will turn out to vote as they still trust in the political system.

She said: "I'm sure there will be some fall-out, but Hugh Robertson (Tory MP for Mid Kent and Faversham) and I have not been caught up with any of this and that gives people complete confidence in their own MPs.

"I think there will be less of a reaction here than other places. Undeniably there will be some sort of a reaction when it comes to voting, but I trust people will vote sensibly."

Endorsed

With public confidence in the main parties low, other parties are optimistic this could be their time to get into County Hall.

UKIP, which has candidates in five Maidstone districts, are urging people to give "the thumbs down" to the three leading parties and vote for a change.

Although the Green Party has failed to secure a seat at County Hall at past elections, recent figures show Green support is rapidly growing and one poll showed them four points ahead of the Lib Dems in the South East.

Former Labour member turned Independent, current Kent County



COUNTDOWN: The polling booths open on Thursday for the county council elections

Councillor for Maidstone South East, Brian Wood, is retiring at the June 4 elections.

Instead of backing his former party or a fellow Independent candidate to take his seat at KCC, Cllr Wood has publicly endorsed the Green Party.

In an attempt to regain the support the main parties have been making their final pleas to the residents as to why they should vote for them.

The Tories maintain their ruling of KCC has been productive and proved to be a success, which they wish to continue following the election.

The Lib Dems are hoping Labour and Conservative voters disappointed with their own parties will lend them their vote, rather than not vote at all, to allow them to reduce the Tory majority sitting at County Hall.

The Labour party is appealing to voters to choose their candidates for county council so the public can benefit from the Labour-run government.

Votes will be counted on Friday.

- For a full list of candidates visit www.yourmaidstone.co.uk. The election results will also be posted on our website as soon as they come through.

**yourmaidstone
NEWS IN BRIEF**

Salute to those who died at Tiananmen Sq

A VIGIL to mark the 20th anniversary of China's Tiananmen Square massacre will be held outside County Hall tomorrow.

Members of Maidstone and Swale Amnesty International Group will sit outside the Kent County Council headquarters in Maidstone on Thursday from 8-9pm, dressed in white.

In 1989, Chinese troops forced out student protesters, gathered at Tiananmen Square for seven weeks, who were leading a backlash against the government's authoritarianism.

For more information please call Lisa Grimley on 07814416684.

Hot Honeyz show the way for night walkers

LADIES taking part in a charity night-time walk will be sent off in style by a Britain's Got Talent dance group.

The thousands of women who are expected to turn-up and complete The Heart of Kent Hospice's Moonlit Walk on Saturday, July 4 will be treated to a warm-up from The Hot Honeyz.

The dance group, from the Mandy Ellen School of Dance, in Earl Street, Maidstone, made it through to the live semi-finals of the TV show last week.

For more information visit www.moonlitwalk.org, call 01622 790195, or email enquiries@moonlitwalk.org.

38-year-old biker died after coming off road

A MOTORCYCLIST killed when his bike came off the road in Surrey came from Maidstone.

Surrey police named the rider as Dean Barry Smith, 38. He died when the blue Suzuki motorcycle he was riding left the carriageway on Outwood Lane in Bletchingley on May 21, shortly after 5.45pm.

A police helicopter and dog unit assisted members of Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and South East Coast Ambulance to locate Mr Smith.

Surrey police are asking anyone who witnessed the incident to contact them on 01483 639922.

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Clegg salutes town's role in Gurkha victory

■ BY ANNA WHITE

LIBERAL Democrat leader Nick Clegg came to the county town to congratulate campaigners for winning the battle for retiring Gurkhas to be allowed to stay in this country.

The prominent MP took a break from Parliament to meet Gurkha veterans from Invicta Barracks in Maidstone and Shorncliffe Barracks in Folkestone at Coxheath Village Hall on Monday.

Mr Clegg was greeted at Staplehurst station by the Lib Dem parliamentary candidate for Maidstone and Weald, Peter Carroll, before heading to meet the soldiers, their families and Lib Dem councillors.

Mr Carroll fought vigorously alongside actress Joanna Lumley to successfully persuade the Government to allow all retired Gurkhas to live in the UK. He celebrated with Ms Lumley and more than 100 former soldiers following Home Secretary Jacqui Smith's historic announcement on Thursday, May 21.

Mr Clegg told Yourmaidstone: "It's a triumph of decency, common sense and British values, and it is a triumph for Kent. It has captured the hearts of the people of Maidstone and Kent."

He added: "It's worth remembering that during a time of such great anxiety and so much anger, a legitimate anger and fury about the goings on a Westminster, and one MP after another has been exposed in this truly depressing and awful scandal, that in the middle of all that the Gurkha campaign finally delivered



PROUD: Lib Dem leader Nick Clegg (left) and parliamentary candidate Peter Carroll met Gurkha soldiers and their families something that we as a nation could be proud of."

Although Mr Clegg has not seen the bronze Gurkha statue outside Maidstone Museum in St Faith's Street, which was unveiled last year and paid for by the public, he praised the people of Maidstone for the idea.

He said: "It's fantastic and Maidstone should be immensely proud, especially because of the role of the Gurkhas have in the community in this part of England. The Gurkha campaign was born and bred in Kent and Kent should be proud of what it has achieved."

Speaking at the village hall, Mr Carroll said: "Today has been a lovely day and it is a lovely

victory. Every time I see one of these Gurkhas it just chokes me and now their lives have been changed profoundly."

Madan Gurung, a former Gurkha soldier who fought with the British Army for 23 years before retiring in 1994, helped Mr Carroll spearhead the campaign.

He said: "I am very, very happy. I have lost 13 colleagues while fighting for this and I am pleased it is now over. This is a big day for me and I pleased Mr Carroll and Mr Clegg are both here."

During the ceremony Mr Clegg and Mr Carroll were both made honorary Gurkhas by Mr Gurung and his colleagues.

Canterbury is next stop for militant

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

without so much as a ticking off.

Mr Preece started filming his antics on his mobile phone, but then bought a pen with a telescopic camera on the end. The footage can be seen on video sharing site YouTube or on our website.

A visit to Ashford International Station, Ashford Police Station and the nearby magistrates court followed last week. Although security guards would not let him into the courts, he managed to walk into the police station and finish his cigarette.

Last Friday, he stood in the food court at the Ashford Designer Outlet and when he refused to put out his fag security guards just let him wander off. His next stop is Canterbury, where he has heard street patrols are tougher.

Smoking ban offenders can be handed £50 on-the-spot penalties, although this can rise to £1,000 if the matter goes to court. It is the job of councils to enforce the law and not the police.

Paul Alcock, manager of the Mall Chequers, said: "If this man returns we will call environmental health who can fine him on the spot."

To find out more about Richard visit www.smokescreens.org.

Mark's confident he'll 'smash' world record

POTTERS from across the country are hoping their hard training will pay-off when they meet in Maidstone this month to try and smash a world record.

The Friars Aylesford Priory will host the Guinness World Record attempt during its annual Potters Market and will be entering its own contestant – Mark 'Billy' Byles.

Mr Byles, from Ashford, is the co-founder of Aylesford Pottery, set within The Friars' religious ground, and has his sights set on becoming the world record holder.

He is hoping his months of training and years of experience will help him take the crown from current world record holder Mary Chapelhow and beat the other pottery contestants.

Defence

To beat Mrs Chapelhow's record Mr Byles will need to make more than 83 pots within an hour, but Mrs Chapelhow will be at the event defending her title.

Mr Byles, 37, said: "To be beat the record I need to make a pot to Guinness's size and quality specifications at least every 43 seconds for an hour – I've just tested myself and I beat that without even breaking conversations – or a sweat."



IN TRAINING: Mark shapes up for challenge

When asked if he is feeling confident about winning the title he said he intends to "smash it".

The Aylesford Potters Market will run from Friday to Sunday, June 26-28 and is expected to attract a large crowd.

The Guinness World Record attempt will be held on the Sunday with heats taking place on the Friday and Saturday.

The market will be open between 10am-5pm. Entry is £4 for adults, accompanied children enter free and £3 for concessions.

Evil rapist caught by DNA on victim

A SEX attacker has been jailed for seven years after being snared by DNA left when he licked a victim's face.

Ashley Niblett, 20, pleaded guilty last month to raping a 35-year-old woman in Maidstone last year, and to attempting to rape a 41-year-old woman.

Niblett, formerly from Sevenoaks, approached the 41-year-old from behind as she walked in Bower Place on April 23, 2008, before taking her mobile and trying to sexually assault her.

The attacker raped his second victim on July 11 last year, in an alleyway next to the library, in St Faith's Street, during the early hours of the morning.

He was caught after a trace of his DNA was found on the 35-year-old woman's face where he had licked her during the attack.

He pleaded not guilty to raping the victim a second time, which was accepted by the Crown during the hearing at Maidstone Crown Court on May 12.

After Niblett was sentenced at the same court on Friday, Detective Inspector Ian Rogerson, of Kent Police, said: "This sentence reflects the severity of these crimes, which will undoubtedly have a huge impact on the victims and is something they will have to live with for the rest of their lives."

"Although crimes of this nature are very rare, when they do occur we will use all the tools in our arsenal to seek the offenders and bring them to justice."

"By the very words of the judge, this man was a danger to women and today's sentence will ensure that he remains off the streets for a long time."



ATTACKER: Niblett was jailed for seven years

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Forum offers disabled chance to voice concerns

POLICE headquarters in Maidstone is to host the Kent and Medway Disability Involvement Forum next week.

The forum gives Kent Police an opportunity to consult disabled people and their carers about issues that concern them.

Items for discussion can be raised at the meeting, or by emailing diversity.team@kent.pnn.police.uk or calling 01622 652437. The event is at 6pm on Monday at the communications centre in Sutton Road.

Training kit a great way to round off first season

A YOUNG football team are showing off their new training jackets thanks to a grant of £377 from the Co-Operative Group.

The cash was given to the Ditton Minors under 15s football club as part of the group's Community Fund scheme.

Coach Andrew Blackwell said: "We are just coming to the end of our first and very successful season, so this grant could not have come at a better time. We have been able to buy training jackets for all the boys."

Volunteers thanked for hard work at museum

MAIDSTONE Museum put its helpers in the spotlight yesterday to honour their generosity and dedication.

Last year 108 people volunteered at the county town's three museums, working a total of 4,495 unpaid hours. Museum bosses thanked them all to mark National Volunteer's Week, which runs until Sunday.

Find out more about volunteering at the museums by calling 01622 602838 or email museuminfo@maidstone.gov.uk.

Town welcomes its new mayor with a parade

THE new Mayor of Maidstone was officially welcomed to the county town during the annual Civic Parade.

The parade began in Week Street on Sunday May 24, before heading to the High Street, led by the 38 Engineer Regiment, a military band and civilian contingents.

The mayor, Cllr Peter Parvin, was joined by the Comanding Office of the regiment and the Gurkha Major outside the Town Hall, where he took the salute.

You can have your cake and ice it, too

■ BY ANNA WHITE

OFFICE workers and housewives have found a new way to express their creativity – by decorating cakes.

Annabelle Gheur recently opened a Confection Perfection shop in Maidstone, at which she teaches the art of cake decoration.

The first classes have been fully booked and from September she will be offering a diploma course – the only one of its kind in Kent.

The mother-of-three opened her first Confection Perfection shop in Hildenborough about eight years ago and opened a cake decorating school within the shop.

Interest quickly grew and Ms Gheur, 37, found her classes in making roses, chocolate decorating and making special cakes, were soon fully booked.

Ms Gheur said: "I have found when people come to my courses they are so pleased when they are able to take home something they have created. It gives them a real sense of achievement."

Since opening on April 20 the new venture in Beverley Road, Barming, has gone down a treat. The qualified instructor said: "We get a real mix, from young girls, mums, and grans, to men."

"We have lots of young mums in learning how to perfect their children's birthday cakes



GETTING CREATIVE: Annabelle Gheur says her students get a kick out of taking home something they have made

and also a few older mums whose children have left home and need a new hobby.

"Then we have the older generation who come along to perfect their skills."

Ms Gheur lives near her shop in Barming with partner Darryl, their three-year-old daughter Angelyna, and her two sons Ben, 15 and James, 12,

Her love of cake decorating stems from her childhood in Ireland, when she would test new

cake recipes in the kitchen with her sister and grandmother. She said: "I told my granny when I was seven that one day I would own my own cake shop, be a millionaire and go on holiday to Barbados."

"Well, I'm still waiting for that holiday and for the millions to roll in."

For more information about the courses or Ms Gheur's cakes call 01622 727259 or visit www.confectionperfection.co.uk.

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Getting ready to Race for Life

WITH the second Maidstone Race for Life event of the year fast-approaching, the KOS Media team enlisted the help of a personal trainer to get in shape to run the 5k route.

The full team: Erica Jones, Jo Nicoll, Lucy Williams, Anna White, Clare Bairam and Sally Ingram, will take part in the race in Mote Park on Sunday.

But to ensure they were up for the challenge David Lloyds Fitness Club in Maidstone set up a session with personal trainer Daniel Young.

Yourmaidstone reporter Anna White and the managing director's PA, Jo Nicoll, were put through their paces at the gym in the

Lockmeadow complex, so they could pass on Mr Young's tips to the rest of the team.

The ladies are hoping the sun will be shining for them and the other 4,000 ladies taking part in this weekend's Race for Life – unlike the torrential rain for the first Maidstone Race for Life on Sunday, May 17.

Other Race for Life events will be taking place across the county, including Tunbridge Wells, Herne Bay, Canterbury, Folkestone and Margate.

The KOS Media team is hoping to raise hundreds of pounds for Cancer Research and our readers can help them achieve this by sponsoring them at www.raceforlife.org/kos.

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For more information and to book your space at this years event call Liz Hare on 01303 817172 or email liz.hare@constructionexpo.co.uk



BRUSH WITH FAME: Artist Graham Clarke congratulates StARTle 2009 competition winner Rebecca Crosbie

Crosbie's stills – flash and young

A TALENTED photographer was named winner of an arts competition during the first anniversary celebrations at the Hazlitt Arts Centre.

StARTle 2009 was launched by Maidstone council, supported by Yourmaidstone, to mark the milestone at the venue which includes a theatre, music studio and art gallery.

Rebecca Crosbie, a photography student at the University of the Creative Arts in Maidstone, was announced as the winner during the Hazlitt's anniversary party on Saturday.

The photographer, who focuses on derelict buildings, wartime tunnels and closed asylums, has won a free four-week exhibition in the Graham Clarke Gallery, within the arts centre in Earl Street, which opens today (Wednesday).

She said: "I thought I'd give the competition a go, but I'm really pleased I won."

"It's going to be great to have my own exhibition and I will be getting my friends and family to come along and see it."

Miss Crosbie, 22, was picked from 34 entries by a panel of judges made up of

■ BY ANNA WHITE

Maidstone artist Graham Clarke, Yourmaidstone acting editor Jon Coates, Maidstone council marketing manager Vronni Ward and Laurence Wood, the head of the University of the Creative Arts in Canterbury.

The announcement followed a day of family activities and workshops, a performance from Mr Clarke's Boughton Monchelsea Youth Band and the unveiling of a memorial plaque for the late Tony Hart (see below).

The birthday events were rounded off with an entertaining performance by Kent-born stand-up comedian Mark Steel in the Hazlitt Theatre auditorium.

Cllr Brian Moss, Maidstone council's cabinet member for leisure and culture, said: "The anniversary attracted a huge audience throughout the day. The activities were well supported and drew many compliments."

The other shortlisted artists in StARTle 2009 were Benjamin Humphrey, Kay Gretton, Jacqueline Marie Stevens and Barry Charlton.

Their entries will also be displayed during the exhibition of Miss Crosbie's photographs at the gallery.

Tribute to late TV favourite

A PLAQUE featuring a dragon and bumblebee drawn by much-loved artist Tony Hart was unveiled by Maidstone Mayor Peter Parvin during the Hazlitt celebrations on Saturday.

Guest of honour was Carolyn Williams, the daughter of the late Maidstone-born children's TV favourite.

After the plaque was unveiled Ms Williams said: "I don't usually quote Victor Meldrew when speaking about my dad, but if he was here he would have said: 'I don't believe it'."

"What a lovely thing to do. He can't be here – and I wish he was – but I thank you on his behalf."

The tribute came after thousands of fans joined an online campaign for a permanent memorial to the Vision On and Take Hart artist, which was backed by Yourmaidstone.

We exclusively reported how after the death of the presenter on January 18, more than 6,000 people joined the Tony Hart memorial group on social networking website Facebook.

Ms Williams said: "I wouldn't say I was surprised when I heard about the online group because people have been saying for years



UNVEILED: Cllr Brian Moss, Carolyn Williams and Mayor Peter Parvin with the Tony Hart tribute plaque

that Maidstone should have something for dad. But it is lovely that it is finally here in his memory."

She also pointed out the plaque features a bumblebee called Iggy, which she said was one of Mr Hart's signature trademarks.

Mr Hart, who died at his Surrey home aged 83, was born in Hastings Road in 1925 and attended St Margaret's Pre-Prep School.

He served as an officer with the 1st Gurkha Rifles in World War Two before studying at Maidstone College of Art, now the University for Creative Arts, before graduating in 1950 and starting his 50-year television career.

yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

Freight meeting packed

HUNDREDS of residents packed a public meeting about a proposed freight depot near Borough Green.

Borough Green international gateway (BIG) has been put forward as an alternative freight terminal to Kent international gateway (KIG), near Bearsted.

If it goes ahead, BIG could cover more than 250 acres of landscape around Platt, Borough Green, Wrotham and Ightham. The public meeting in St George's Hall, Wrotham, was attended by more than 200 people.

With traffic already blighting Borough Green, Kent County Council is working on a planning application for a village bypass.

Locals are concerned the BIG developers will offer to fund the bypass.

Richard Knox-Johnston, chairman of Protect Kent, said: "We are against inappropriate development in the Green Belt and this depot will have a severe impact."

Remembrance reminder

FAMILIES are being invited to attend this year's service of remembrance at Vinters Park crematorium, Maidstone, on Sunday, June 14, from 3pm.

Music will be provided by the Salvation Army and this year the service will be led by the Rev Stuart Piper, lead chaplain at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust.

There will be some seating, but guests are welcome to take their own chairs.

For more information, contact the crematorium office on 01622 738172 or email bereavementservices@maidstone.gov.uk.

Keyhole surgery link-up

SURGEONS will be able to take a masters degree in keyhole surgery after a link-up between the University of Kent and the NHS.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust will work with the university's Medway-based Centre for Work and Learning to deliver the programme, from October.

The focus will be laparoscopic, or keyhole, surgery, which uses fibre optic camera technology to operate through small incisions.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust unveiled a new laparoscopic theatre at Maidstone Hospital last month.

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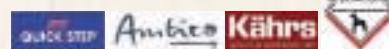
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WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

hatham	Saturday	12:45pm	5.6m
	Sunday	1:25pm	5.7m
over	Saturday	11:03am	6.1m
	Sunday	11:44am	6.2m
ungeness	Saturday	10:55am	6.9m
	Sunday	11:36am	7.1m
amsgate	Saturday	11:33am	4.6m
	Sunday	12:14pm	4.7m
heerness	Saturday	12:34pm	5.4m
	Sunday	1:15pm	5.4m
Whitstable	Saturday	12:45pm	5.0m
	Sunday	1:25pm	5.0m

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	
Ashford	21°C	16°C	16°C	15°C	16°C	Gravesend	23°C	18°C	17°C	16°C	17°C
Canterbury	18°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	16°C	Maidstone	22°C	17°C	16°C	16°C	16°C
Chatham	19°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	Ramsgate	18°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	16°C
Dartford	23°C	18°C	17°C	16°C	17°C	Rochester	19°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	15°C
Dover	16°C	14°C	14°C	14°C	15°C	Sevenoaks	21°C	16°C	15°C	14°C	15°C
Faversham	19°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	Sittingbourne	19°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	15°C
Folkestone	16°C	14°C	14°C	14°C	15°C	Tonbridge	22°C	17°C	16°C	16°C	16°C
Gillingham	19°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	Tun Wells	22°C	17°C	16°C	16°C	16°C



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	24°C	Madrid	31°C
Athens	26°C	New York	25°C
Barcelona	22°C	Paris	24°C
Beijing	34°C	Rome	19°C
Bombay	33°C	Sydney	16°C
Cape Town	19°C	Tenerife	22°C
Cardiff	22°C	Tokyo	21°C
Gibraltar	24°C	Vancouver	19°C
Hong Kong	30°C	Warsaw	18°C
Las Palmas	23°C	Wellington	11°C

Dora's colt joins farmyard family

KENT'S latest family attraction has welcomed a new addition to its farmyard – a foal.

Dora, a Romanian donkey, was adopted by Kent Life shortly before it reopened in April.

On arrival, staff suspected the mare was pregnant and it was confirmed she was due at the beginning of April.

beginning of April. But Dora kept everyone in suspense and gave birth to a healthy male foal nearly two months later – at 7.30pm last Wednesday.

DORA AND SON: The new colt and mum at Kent Life are doing well.

Kent Life director John Jordan said: "We're absolutely delighted the birth was successful and we now have a beautiful colt."

Dora was named after children's character Dora the Explorer, after she travelled across Europe to Kent Life, in Sandling, where she moved in with fellow donkey Ellie and other animals just in time for the grand opening.

Kent Life, which had been known as the Museum of Kent Life for 20 years, underwent a £500,000 transformation in time for the new season.

The move has proved a success, with the attraction smashing its visitor targets during the four-day Easter bank holiday weekend in April.



DORA AND SON: The new colt and mum at Kent Life

yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

PETER CARROLL



Q & A

James Alexandre talks to Peter Carroll, founder of the Gorkha Justice Campaign, which succeeded in winning residency rights for all Gorkha veterans, about the early days and where we go from here

Q Tell us a little about yourself

A I'm 48 years old and married to Lynne. I own a road transport company based in Maidstone. However, I've had a very varied career. I started as a research scientist and then served as an officer in the RAF for six years. I ran a software company until moving into the family road transport business in 1992. I am a Liberal Democrat.

Q How did you get involved in the Gorkha Justice Campaign?

A In 2004, four retired Gurkhas arrived at my home to say that one of their colleagues was being deported. This was a jaw-dropping moment for me. I had no idea that at the time all retired Gurkhas had to go back to Nepal. From that moment, I vowed to help them. I helped forge them into a campaigning force.

Later that year, the Blair Government announced a major change in policy and said that Gurkhas who retired after 1997 could stay in Britain. While a very good move, this led to the terrible situation that Gurkhas who retired before 1997 could not stay – this included veterans of the first Gulf War, the Falklands and other conflicts.

Q What does this new announcement by the Government mean for all retired Gurkhas?

A This new policy will change lives profoundly and in a wonderful way. It means that

thousands of very brave and loyal British Army Gurkhas who have been excluded from living in Britain can now do so. For them and their families it gives access to a better life.

Q How crucial a role has Joanna Lumley played in the campaign?

A Her fame and her wonderful way of reaching out to people and her ability to communicate via the media meant the campaign gained a massive amount of momentum. With Joanna at the head, we were able to apply a degree of political pressure which had eluded us before her involvement.

Q Do you believe all foreign soldiers who fought on behalf of the UK should have the right to settle here?

A Yes I do. Indeed, soldiers from Commonwealth countries have had the right to settlement in the UK after four years for a very significant period. The central plank of our campaign was simply to ask for parity with these soldiers. We were never asking for anything special – just parity with Commonwealth soldiers.

Q How significant a decision do you believe this is in the history of our Parliament and Armed Forces?

A This decision is profoundly significant. A public campaign has forced an unwilling Government to do the 'right thing'. The vote in Parliament was crucial. In that vote, MPs of all sides worked together to defeat the Govern-

ment on an Opposition Day motion. I believe the last time that happened was in the mid 1970s. The Gurkha issue has helped bring to the fore the very important concept of the Military Covenant for all our soldiers. That covenant sets out that in return for the risks they take, members of the Armed Forces should expect to be well treated and respected.

Q Is there a next step for the campaign, or have you reached the pinnacle?

A No, this campaign is over. Usually, campaigns either only succeed in increasing awareness of an issue or in getting a compromise. In this case, the campaign has been won.

Q What do you believe the future holds for this Labour Government?

A I feel that it is in severe trouble. It is as if the public mood has shifted against it and it is struggling to become positive again. I think its difficulties can best be demonstrated by how it has reacted to our campaign. Blair's was the first Government to do something positive for the Gurkhas when it allowed post-1997 retirees to stay in this country. Gordon Brown has now built on this with his decision to let all retired Gurkhas stay. However, despite all that good work, many feel the Government has been dragged kicking and screaming to this point. Hence, the public has a negative view of its actions when, in fact, it has done more than any other.



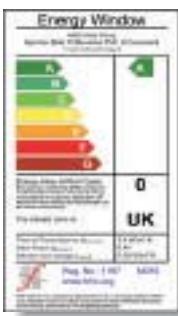
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KOS Media team train for this weekend's Race for Life. Search 'race'



Seen our TV ad for newly-launched Kent on Saturday yet? Search 'commercial'



There has been a spring baby boom at Port Lympne. Search 'baby'



Gills won promotion after tense play-off at Wembley. Search 'Gills'



Lifeboat used in Dunkirk evacuation in WW II is at Deal museum. Search 'boats'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...
yourkenttv.co.uk

Have you seen one of these flutter by?

A MASSIVE number of distinctive Painted Lady butterflies are now arriving in the county, after an amazing 1,000-mile migration from North Africa.

In a space of about 45 minutes, conservationists counted nearly 3,000 of the butterflies at one location in Kent, which they called "quite incredible".

The charity Butterfly Conservation has been receiving reports since the start of last week of sightings of large numbers of these fast-flying butterflies, which have orange, black and white-spotted wings, moving overhead for hours on end. They say this could be one of the largest Painted Lady migrations in decades.

The first indication of their arrival in Britain came when Butterfly Conservation members first reported seeing large numbers along the south coast.

Since then, thousands have been seen flying in a northerly direction. Scientists have been predicting an unusually large migration since late winter.

■ BY NICK AMES

The butterflies originate from the Atlas Mountains of Morocco, where heavy winter rains allowed good germination of the caterpillar food-plants.

A Spanish researcher, Constanti Stefanescu, had reported seeing hundreds of thousands emerging in mid February and beginning their long flight north.

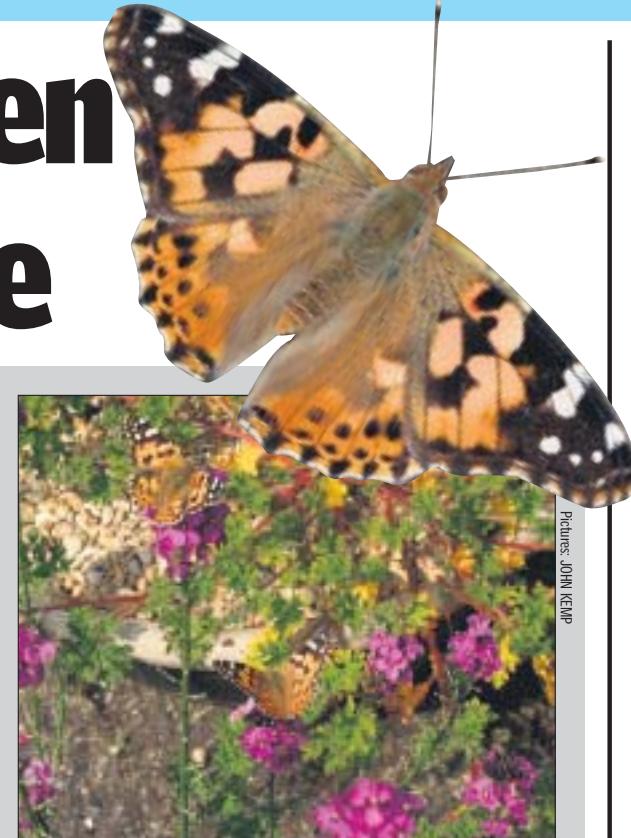
They were seen in large numbers in Spain during April and a few weeks later in France.

Now they have arrived in the southern part of the UK with sightings as far north as East Anglia being reported.

Butterfly Conservation is asking for the public's help to track the migration by recording any sightings at www.butterfly-conservation.org/migrantwatch.

Richard Fox, surveys manager, said: "There are literally millions of Painted Lady butterflies arriving right across Britain.

"This is a spectacular phenomenon and we are asking people to send us their sightings via our website".



Pictures: JOHN KEMP

MIGRATION: Painted Ladies are arriving to our shores in massive numbers

Reader's letter flew in

READER John Kemp from Whitstable contacted us after taking pictures of the visitors.

He said: "There has been a massive influx of Painted Lady butterflies into Britain in the past week. I saw 13 at one time in my garden in Whitstable, and I have also seen them in Chestfield.

"They have been reported from Grove Ferry, Sandwich Bay, West to Devon: sometimes in large numbers - over 1,000 at Rainham marshes just over the

estuary into Essex. This attractive butterfly is fairly common, but very variable in numbers, being an irruptive migrant from North Africa and Southern Europe - it can not survive our winters.

"It is, however, an extremely adventurous migrant and strong flier, being the only butterfly ever found in Iceland. I attach a photo, taken yesterday in my garden, where they were sipping nectar from our perennial wallflowers.

"Here are some pictures."

Picture: BRYONY CHAPMAN (KENT WILDLIFE TRUST)



A RARE SIGHT: Comma butterflies are in decline

Making a home for butterflies

Pat Crawford gives wildlife gardening advice from Hadlow College in her exclusive column for Yourmaidstone

WITH summer approaching native butterflies should be seen in our gardens in droves - but they are not. The reason is that a lot of butterfly species are in decline - and some are threatened with extinction.

According to reports from the Butterfly Monitoring Scheme, last year was the worst since records began in 1976.

Two things would help to redress this worrying situation. Firstly, a warm, sunny summer because the majority of butterflies don't tolerate rain or cold. Secondly, gardeners making positive efforts to improve habitats.

Butterflies lay their eggs where emerging caterpillars have immediate access to food. In some cases they only lay eggs on the common nettle. It is easy to reserve a small area of the garden where nettles can grow undisturbed.

And why not plant more of the native nectar-rich flowers loved by butterflies? Any garden centre or nursery worth the title will be able to offer plenty of help on this score.

Two further important points. Select warm, sunny, sheltered places to locate nectar-rich plants because butterflies will be reluctant to visit chilly, draughty spots in the garden.

And consider reducing - or at least cutting down - on the use of pesticides because they kill gardeners' friends such as ladybirds and butterflies just as much as what are perceived as 'nasty' visitors.

- From June 8-14 the summer exhibition at Hadlow College is open to the public free of charge. Call 01732 853211 for information and to order tickets.

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Happy diners give glowing approval to local champion

Neill Barston visits The Mulberry Tree, which has just tucked another award under its belt

TUCKED away in the leafy surroundings of Boughton Monchelsea, The Mulberry Tree has been named as the Good Food Guide readers' favourite restaurant in the South East.

The accolade is all the more impressive given the fact the Hermitage Lane venue, which was completely revamped from a down-at-heel pub two years ago, has yet to appear in the prestigious national culinary guide.

Needless to say, the team at the restaurant were over the moon at the award, which comes in the wake of its recognition with a Produced In Kent Taste of Kent Award.

Karen Williams, The Mulberry Tree's front of house manager said: "This has made all the hard work pay off, it's fantastic for us. We had originally tried just having snack food available here at the venue, but that just didn't work. So we looked at what people really wanted and it's great that we have an award that has been gained by customers writing in."

She added that head chef Alan Irwin has been instrumental in the restaurant's success. The post is his first senior role, having previously worked as part of the team at Michelin starred venue Chapter One in Bromley.

The restaurant's contemporary styling and menu has been a big hit with customers, who have valued its philosophy of ensuring its food is sourced from Kent.

Its seasonal specials, ranging from fish caught off the county's coast, locally reared meat, and fresh vegetables from its own garden supplies have made it a sought-after evening venue. The restaurant also serves a continually evolving lunch menu that's suitable for both meat eaters and vegetarians.

There is a full selection of beers available from its bar, which also stocks a varied range of Kentish wines which can be enjoyed in its terrace garden.

More than 23,000 people voted in The Good Food Guide's



annual readers' Restaurant of the Year award, which recognises excellence and good service at independently owned restaurants, pubs and cafés across the UK.

The public were invited to nominate their favourite independently-owned and run restaurant, pub or café in their region, preferably one that offers regional dishes and/or seeks out local producers. They could nominate online or submit a postcard that was available from restaurants.

The Mulberry Tree now joins nine other regional winners to compete for the overall Restaurant of the Year title, which will be awarded on June 9, at a ceremony to be held at the British Museum.

Elizabeth Carter, editor of The Good Food Guide believed there had been some strong competition for this year's awards.

She said: "All of the restaurants that made it on to this year's shortlist should be really proud of the show of support they've received from their customers."

"The Mulberry Tree isn't the easiest place to find, but persevere. Alan Irwin's cooking is heroically seasonal, based on first-class local produce."

For more information visit www.themulberrytree.kent.co.uk or phone 01622 749082 or 01622 741058. For more details on the awards, visit www.which.co.uk/awards.



Take a bite of the cherry during weekend festival

A CELEBRATION of Kent's longstanding production of cherries is being held at Brogdale Farm in Faversham.

The Cherry Festival event, which takes place on the weekend of July 11-12, will offer more than 50 varieties for visitors to try at their leisure as they take in the national fruit collection, which features a total of more than 3,500 fruit varieties including apples, pears, plums, nuts and cherry varieties on site.

Sally Roger, of Brogdale Collection said: "Cherries are so tasty and buying locally when they are in season does make a huge difference to the taste. A visit to Brogdale is a unique experience."

The farm offers a great day out for the family in offering a wide range of fresh local produce at its market-place.

For more about the collection and the Cherry Festival visit www.brogdalecollections.co.uk

Celebration is brewing to help mark first Forces day

ONE of Kent's most innovative ale producers, The Nelson Brewery, is creating a special beer to mark the first Armed Forces Day taking place in Medway.

The Chatham Historic Dockyard-based company is hard at work putting the finishing touches to its brew, which will be released in time to coincide with the massive military event on Saturday, June 27.

Piers MacDonald, of the Nelson Brewery, commented: "This is going to be a really important event for us and the whole of Medway and we're glad to be a part of it."

For more information about the day and how to get tickets visit www.armedforcesday.org.uk/



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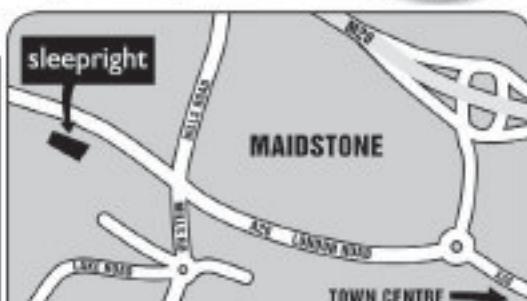
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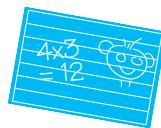
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yourmaidstoneschools



Tots catch insect bug

■ BY ANNA WHITE

YOUNGSTERS got the chance to live as their favourite creepy-crawly for a day when their school held an Ugly Bug Ball.

The reception classes at Sutton Valence Preparatory School, in Chart Sutton, were asked to come to school dressed as a bug of their choice.

The Ugly Bug Ball rounded off the term's work on mini-beasts, during which the four and five years olds learnt about the huge importance spiders and flies, slugs and snails and other creepy-crawlies have on our environment.

The human beasties spent the morning in the bug workshop where they made bug masks and badges, mini-beast flower pots and sparkly spider webs.

During the afternoon the youngsters spent their time in the school's Bates Hall for The Ugly Bug Ball, trying to dance like the tiny creatures to learn exactly how they favourite creepy crawlies move.

To finish off their fun-packed day the children tucked in to a range of bug-themed foods in a giant feast.



SURFING THE WEB: Sam Smith, Joe Savage and Chloe Alexander create some sparkly spider webs

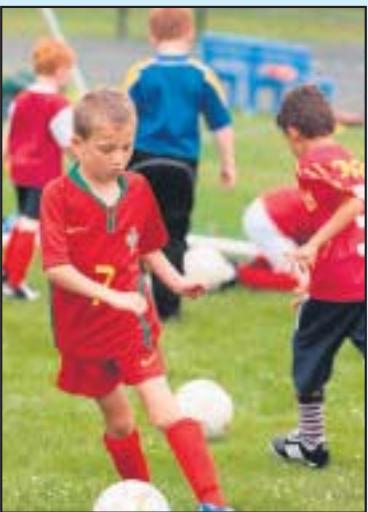
Foundation stage co-ordinator Carla Johnson said: "The whole day was designed to consolidate the children's learning about mini-beasts, but with a fun element.

"They were asked to come into school as a bug of their choice and their imaginations ran riot.

"The parents were particularly inventive and we had some terrific creatures."

BREAK TIME

Footie skills for young players



ON THE BALL: Youngsters at the soccer school

BUDGING football stars wanting to pick up skills to give Cristiano Ronaldo a run for his money can learn from qualified instructors at a weekend soccer school.

The Aylesford Soccer School runs every Saturday at Aylesford Sports College and offers training in key skills of the sport.

From 10am-11.30am, the FA-qualified instructors run warm-ups focusing on co-ordination and dexterity training, and skills coaching.

The students will be able to show off their new skills when the school hosts small-sided matches and tournaments.

Keen football players wanting to take part need to bring a football kit or track-suit, shin pads, football boots or training shoes, plenty of still drinks, and sunscreen and caps are recommended for hot weather over the summer.

All the instructors are CRB checked and possess up-to-date FA-accredited child protection and first aid certificates.

Sessions are £5. For more information on the soccer school, call 07951 456457 or email aylesfordsoccerschool@live.com



WINGING IT: Georgina Wallace as a butterfly, above; Amber Brown and Joshua Forkall, right, in their insect masks

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yourmaidstoneblogger



Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in and around Maidstone...

Who'll be the next entrants into Big Brother's little hall of infamy?

WITH the start of yet another series of Big Brother tomorrow, who can forget the great characters we have been introduced to via the original TV 'reality' show?

Victor – alias the milkman, because he always delivers – Nasty Nick – so called because he was nasty – wannabe Chanelle – who idolises Victoria Beckham – and all the rest.

You remember them, the stupid posh blonde one who used an offensive racial term, the nurse from Nigeria who said she faced death if she returned to Africa because her TV character was so unappealing.

What were they called again?

Oh yes, Emily and Makosi.

There you see – legends all.

Just as is Science the rapper, who once memorably stated "I live in da ghetto – wiv me mum!"

It's actually 50 years since the novel 1984 by George Orwell was published and the term 'Big Brother' with its overtones of 24-7 surveillance was created.

And what better way to remember that critique of authoritarianism and warning against an all-powerful state out to stamp a boot on the human face forever than watching a load of idiots cavorting in a make believe house?

I mean, what have the victims of the Thought Police and those tortured in the Ministry of Love got compared to the housemates of Big Brother Seven?

Shahbaz threatened to commit suicide! Lea suffered from issues over her body! Nikki had anorexia! Glyn was Welsh! So was Imogen!

It surely doesn't get any worse than that!

Except – the truly awesome fight night of Big Brother Five. Compared to that, the retreat from Moscow was a stroll in the snow.

Victor was at the centre of it all and you can't keep a good milkman down as the saying goes.

The kid from the ghetto had just about had it with gobby Emma and the fact that he was dressed as a clown didn't hold him back.

Live TV coverage was cut as the so-called battling pair were pulled apart by security guards.

Self proclaimed gangsta Victor – aka Mr Slick because of his way wiv da ladeez –

flipped a table over before hurling a platter at her head.

Threats to kill then came from the lips of the man also called Mr Marmite as people either love him or hate him – to the shock of Channel 4 who tried to involve the police.

It didn't end there as Big Vic and fellow 'Jungle Cat' Jason continued the row.

And there was even more aggro two series later as Grace hurled a glass of water quite near to Susie as she left the house.

The violence even spilled over into the real world.

"Centre of attention" Grace was attacked as she left the G.A.Y. club in London's Astoria and the "party girl" hurt her foot.

How real is that?

Yes it doesn't get any bigger than Big Brother – and it lasts all summer (although it seems like for the next decade).

EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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Jon Coates, on 01303 817048 or email him

on the details above. If you want to be the next Maidstone blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log on to www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

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WHETHER you're off to picnic at Wimbledon, the races or just down to the park, it can be a chore lugging a heavy basket filled with bottles and jars.

It's more disheartening to open your hamper and find your carefully dressed salad has turned soggy. But The English Provender Company has the solution – Singles!

Singles are neat sachets of deliciously low-fat dressing perfect for pouring on to your salad just before you eat. Choose from three great flavours – Honey & Mustard, Classic French and Lime & Coriander. These innovative little sachets come in neat boxes of six and are made using only the finest ingredients.

For the health conscious, each individually portioned sachet contains between one and three per cent fat and approx 21-44 kcals depending on the flavour.

Singles also allow all the family the freedom to choose their favourite flavour without cluttering up the fridge – the sachets can be safely stored at room temperature. And if you all find you like the same flavour, you can buy a large 250ml bottle to share at home.

So now there's no excuse but to round up the family and go for a lovely al fresco lunch.

To help you on your way we've teamed up with The English Provender Company to offer four readers the chance of winning a beautiful Optima four-person picnic hamper, complete with a pack of each flavour of Singles.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your e-mail address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to English Provender Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR. The closing date is June 24, 2009.

Question: Depending on the flavour how many kcals are there in each individually portioned sachet?

Look for Singles in major supermarkets and online at www.englishprovender.com. Also be sure to try English Provender's new Indulgent



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yourletters

TALK TIME

TARA HORTON

The 20-year-old student nurse talks about her work placement in Accident and Emergency, and why she wants to be placed there when she graduates next year



Tell us a little about yourself.

I'm in my last year of a three year nursing course. I am currently studying at Canterbury Christchurch University and will graduate in February 2010. I live in Bearsted and commute to Canterbury, but have various placements at Maidstone Hospital including medical, orthopaedics, surgical and in the community. When qualified I will be a registered staff nurse.

Why did you want to become a nurse?

I have always thought I would like to work within the health care system, but it wasn't until my first year in sixth form when studying for my A Levels that I decided to volunteer to do a work placement on a ward. This experience in a hospital allowed me to care for patients and understand the nurse's role within this environment. I thoroughly enjoyed it and from then on I decided I would apply to become a nurse. Also my mum, Diane Poole, is an ambulance technician and would come home and tell me stories she had to deal with.

Which area of nursing would you like to work in when you graduate?

I have currently finished a five week acute placement based in Accident and Emergency. This is where I would love to work permanently when I qualify as every day is different and it is very fast-paced. I love being challenged and dealing with extreme situations. It is an excellent place to learn quick clinical skills.

YOUR LETTERS

WE'RE NOT GANG OF CROOKS, SAYS MP

Get rid of Widdy and the whole lot

After reading your front page story in the May 20 edition of Yourmaidstone, maybe it's a good thing local MP Ann Widdecombe will be retiring at the next election.

Along with so many other MPs, she appears to have lost the plot. The expenses scandal was just "the straw that broke the camel's back".

Voters have had enough of being treated as useful only as election fodder and then being ignored, lied to and taken as fools.

After ignoring millions of voters and taking us to war on a tissue of lies, to kill hundreds of thousands of innocent people, waste billions of pounds and lay waste to Iraq, you'd have thought they would have learnt their lesson.

But no, they still have the same arrogance, the same mindset and the same contempt for democracy.

We need a General Election to get rid of the self-servers, the time-servers and the egoists, so

COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

Beneath most stories on the www.yourmaidstone.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yourmaidstone.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Maidstone as well as our villages. We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience.

In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yourmaidstone before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out. On www.yourmaidstone.co.uk you can access, for free, the full newspaper in our highly acclaimed e-editions.

we can elect more like Vince Cable, Frank Field and David Davis to return our country to a democracy, instead of the usual elected dictatorship.

Phil Granger, from West Malling, by email

Who is Kent 'NOT' Travel company?

On Bank Holiday Monday, May 25, I had intended to take an eld-

erly friend from Detling to Maidstone on the bus service 335 provided by Kent Top Travel.

The gentleman in question suffers from cancer with mobility issues, so found the 400 metre walk uphill to the bus stop a challenge. We had arranged to go for a meal and do some shopping.

We arrived at the bus stop at 12.40pm to catch the 12.48pm. At 1.25pm we gave up and I walked him home.

We went back to the bus stop for the 2.48pm as the shopping still needed to be done, so I waited from 2.35pm until 3.35pm for that bus not to turn up.

I again waited for the 4.48pm until 5.20pm, only for that not to turn up.

Who is responsible for this, Kent Top Travel or KCC, or are they the one and the same?

Robert Barracough, from Maidstone, by email

Missing memorial was in safe keeping

When the Trinity Church was converted into the Trinity Foyer, I noticed that the memorial to Captain Nolan was missing.

When I asked what had happened to it I was told it had been removed and taken to the Cutbush (and Correll Charity Offices?) in Sittingbourne Road for safe keeping until a home was found for it.

Gill Annan, from Maidstone, by email

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Holiday story was bit of a Turkey

I was pleased to read a pleasant report of Sunsail Club Javelin in last week's Your Maidstone, it brought back fond memories of my friend 'Spliff'.

Last summer I worked as a sailing instructor at Club Javelin for four months and had an excellent time.

However, Sunsail has now closed its Turkish Clubs (including Javelin), due to an incident concerning work visas at the end of October 2008.

Joseph Macgregor, from East Farleigh,
by email

Editor's reply: Dear Mr Macgregor, thanks for letting us know about this development. We have had calls about this from readers of other mid-week papers across Kent.

Our holiday features are supplied to us by the Press Association and so ran the article in good faith.

I have sent your comment to PA and hopefully this error on their behalf will not happen again, but we would like to apologise for any inconvenience to our readers.

Stop people paying with their jobs

Our Government is hell-bent on cutting jobs in every part of Kent.

All of Kent's councils appear to be contemplating redundancies: nationwide 7,000 local government jobs

have gone already with 14,000 more expected over the next 12 months.

Over 100 of our UK universities are planning to cut staff too.

And if this was not bad enough, Government capping of university places will close the doors to about 30,000 eligible students this summer. Hasn't the Government heard of this country's massive skills shortages?

Work that could be done to insulate homes, cut energy wastage and fuel poverty and put solar water heating and solar panels in our schools and hospitals is not being done, condemning construction workers to enforced unemployment.

Yes, a recession is difficult, but there are plenty of areas of public spending occurring in Kent and Medway that we do not need.

Subsidies to chemical-based agriculture should be brought to an end; new major road building should be stopped; subsidised public private partnerships to build new schools should be cut in favour of cheaper direct public spending on such projects; public spending on planning for large-scale lorry parking and warehousing developments like the China Gateway, the Kent International Gateway project and a similar project at Borough Green could all cease with a clear Government rejection of these unsustainable projects.

We're not a poor country. But we are poorly-led, and people are paying with their jobs for the Government's combined failures to lead or to prioritise for the future.

Dr Hazel Dawe, chair of Kent Green Party,
by email

You can help plant a happier community

National Volunteers Week started on Monday, which is a week of celebration and recognition for the hundreds of thousands of volunteers that help to make Britain a better place to live.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank this underground army and in particular, a dedicated band of horticultural heroes – the RHS Britain in Bloom and Neighbourhood Award volunteers.

Their muddy hands and green fingers turn concrete jungles into lush green places, while their endless enthusiasm and determination creates local environments in which people can flourish.

Gardening really is a tool that brings communities together.

The stories I have heard from the Britain in Bloom volunteers all ring true with the same messages – that, through gardening, friendships have been made, neighbours have reconnected with each other and anti-social behaviour has been reduced.

If you feel as I do that gardening plays a vital role in benefiting society and the world in which we live, and you would like to volunteer please visit www.rhs.org.uk/britaininbloom.

Charlie Dimmock, TV presenter, gardener and RHS Britain in Bloom supporter, by email



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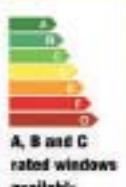
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ON GENERAL RELEASE

ANGELS & DEMONS (12A)



Tom Hanks returns in Ron Howard's sequel to The Da Vinci Code. This jettisons the ponderous dialogue of its filmic predecessor in favour of a protracted game of cat and mouse around Rome.

JONAS BROTHERS (U)



Teen heart-throbs Joe, Nick and Kevin delight their fans in this 3D film of last year's concert at Madison Square Gardens. Intercut with off-stage antics and footage of their hectic daily lives.

12 ROUNDS (12A)



The latest overblown adrenaline rush from director Renny Harlin sees wrestling star John Cena battle against a madman in a series of preposterous challenges as he bids to save his girlfriend's life.

Comedy duo promise a night to remember

■ BY SUSAN GRIFFIN

PUT two comedy giants together in one room and even a pack of jaded journalists will soon be buzzing with anticipation at their imminent arrival.

Dictaphones are arranged, prime seats are fought over and hushed whispers reach fever pitch as Ricky Gervais and Ben Stiller make their entrance.

Gervais, 47, and Stiller, 43, have amassed an impressive body of work between them.

As the co-creator of The Office, Gervais won unlikely empathy for the sadly-comedic character David Brent, and the plaudits the series received brought him huge success on both sides of the Atlantic.

His subsequent star pulling-power allowed him to secure unlikely cameos from the likes of Robert de Niro and Kate Winslet, who both willingly sent themselves up in his follow-up project, Extras.

Stiller meanwhile has been described as a "ringmaster who knows everybody in Hollywood" by his friend and co-star Hank Azaria, having been behind box office hits such as Meet The Parents, Dodgeball and Tropic Thunder.

The reason for the duo's joint appearance is to promote their latest cinematic pairing in comedy sequel Night At The Museum 2.

Back in the press room, a call for silence breaks into applause as the duo arrive.

Gervais, wearing black trousers, T-shirt and jacket, leads the way. He is closely followed by Stiller, who at around 5ft 6in, also wearing black and sporting impressively bouffant hair, makes Gervais look positively statuesque.

The premise of the Night At The Museum



DOUBLE ACT: Buddies Ricky Gervais and Ben Stiller

movies revolves around the idea of museum exhibits coming to life once visitors have left.

Stiller reprises the role of Larry Daley, the former museum night guard at The Museum of Natural History who has now found success as an infomercial inventor.

The museum's assorted historical characters, played by the likes of Owen Wilson, Robin Williams and Steve Coogan, all reappear, along with a host of new faces, such as Amy Adams as Amelia Earhart and Azaria as an Egyptian pharaoh. Gervais, meanwhile, is back as Daley's boss, the oblivious Dr McPhee.

Stiller said: "We had to figure out a way to start the second movie, particularly as Larry was so happy at the end of the first one."

VIEW THIS PREVIEW

yourkenttv.co.uk



"The idea that Larry had become successful and had all the problems that come with that took him away from his true happiness."

Both cast and crew wanted everything in the sequel to not only be bigger but better, so the action was moved to the world's largest museum, Washington's Smithsonian Institution.

While it meant an infinite amount of creative possibilities for the production team, it does beg the question whether there's now anywhere else the film franchise can go.

"I don't know," says Stiller. "The idea of doing a third one would be great. It's just figuring out how it could get any bigger; any different."

"How about a normal museum where nothing comes to life, just following the admin," Gervais chips in. "Just naturalise it all..."

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM 2

Certificate PG

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- The Italian Job PG
Sun – 6.20pm
- Bloody Mama 18
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- Sympathy for the Devil (One Plus One) 15
Wed – 6.50pm
- Burn! (aka Queimada!) 15
Thur 6.50pm

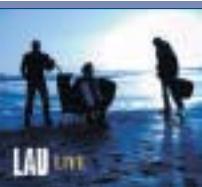
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Award Winning Company

yourmaidstonemusic

Important note for aspiring musicians

■ BY TOM BETTS

YOUR chance to take a positive step forward into the music industry is available courtesy of a Kent-based company on the lookout for fresh new talent.

The exciting project from Diverse Music could enable you to get involved in music in a way you hadn't before thought possible.

It offers you the chance to become part of an expanding network of talent that could be too good not to take up.

The firm are run by three industry experts, with insider Malissa Whitehouse – who has worked with a host of big names like Travis and George Michael – heading up the team's push for new Kent talent.

She said: "This project is our chance to give something back to the music scene in Kent and we are hoping to find some great acts to work with and help.

"We feel we can help with the development and provide a doorway into the music industry for people who may not have had that chance."

With the process open to anyone who

UPLOAD YOUR MUSIC VIDEOS TO BROADCAST ON OUR WEBSITE @ yourkenttv.co.uk



ON THE IVORIES: Richard J Lewis performs at the Quarterhouse



TASTY: Tortilla Army perform song Broken live at The Ether



KENT UNSIGNED CHART

- 1 Lost in Colour - Stay Awake Tonight (from Maidstone)
- 2 Directions - Equality Street (from Maidstone)
- 3 The Suspects - War of Words (from Margate)
- 4 Shelta - Let's Talk (from Bexley)
- 5 The Flack - The Things Ya Do To Me (from Deal)

feels they may be able to make an impact, bookings for the FREE auditions are being taken now.

Eventually the artists will form a database of talent, who could be put in touch with each other to share ideas or even perform together.

It could prove to be a hotbed of ideas and creativity with the facilities and technology to put down professional tracks at the Diverse studio in Bilting near Ashford already in place.

Working with Malissa are producer Lee Golledge, who specialises in rock, indie and alternative material and Tony Matthew, a for-

mer member of the Soul II Soul collective, key players in the British soul revival in the 80s who had massive hit records.

The two are highly accomplished musicians and will be on hand to offer their advice to those who join the process.

Songwriters and other performers will also be added to the database as it takes shape with the aim to keep it growing and expanding.

To apply for an audition spot email Malissa@popsessions.co.uk.

Include a brief description of who you are, what you do and a picture of yourself.



HELP: Lee Golledge performs with Circle of Rage



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FUSE FESTIVAL

Saturday June 6 to
Saturday June 20
Various Venues, Medway

FANS of the weird and wacky will be in their element as this year's Fuse Medway Festival gets underway.

During this 15-day celebration of art and creativity, a dazzling array of dance, theatre, music and other entertainment will be on offer to inspire and intrigue spectators. New shows will be joining the programme this year to make the festival even more exciting, diverse and colourful than before.

Shoppers in Chatham High Street will know the festival has opened this Saturday when they find themselves sharing the pavement with jugglers, balloon artists and two Oxbridge undergraduates in a boat. Artizani will be punting down the street while the amazing Insect Circus Museum astounds people with its tame wasps, charmed worms and dancing snails.

If a pillow fight in the street is not entertaining enough, a stunning carnival will leave the New Art Centre in the evening and parade to Chatham riverside where dancers and musicians will showcase Indian music and melodies, followed by a firework display.

On Saturday, June 13, it will be Rochester High Street's turn to feel the groove on a day that is all about movement. Indian dance troupe Akademi, Medway's Loop Dance Company, award-winning 4x4 Bhangra Group and the Floor Crusaders will be showing off amazing skills that will captivate their audience.

Witness the art of parkour when Ashley Spider demonstrates his free running technique, while Dizzy O'Dare presents some breathtaking tightwire and circus stunts. Aspiring dancers will have the chance to try out some steps in a number of workshops with the professionals.

Rochester Castle Gardens will be the setting for a macabre stilt dance



FUSE FESTIVAL ATTRACTIONS:

Aerial dance display Loved Up, above, and right, a dancer from Indian troupe Akademi based on the Danza Antigua Festival of the living dead and Loved Up, an aerial dance display.

Shoppers will meet a variety of interesting characters in Gillingham High Street on Saturday, June 20, as fantastic street performers arrive in their midst. Frolicked Puppet Theatre, the pint-sized Flying Buttresses and the Cockney Awkestra will all be making the shopping experience more interesting that day.

The festival draws to a close at Rochester Castle Gardens that evening with the amazing From The Inky Deep. This tightwire and aerial circus show will astonish the audience, while fire sculptures by Denis Tricot will light up the night sky.

Taking place at several new venues across the area, Fuse Medway Festival promises to be even more entertaining than last year. For full listings call 01634 338319 or go online at www.fusefestival.org.uk.

Programmes are available from Chatham's Central and Brook Theatres, libraries, leisure centres and high street outlets in Chatham, Gillingham and Rochester.



FOR MORE THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENT VISIT yourkenttv.co.uk

with
JANE CONNOLLY
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REACH OUT!

Saturday, June 6
Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone



MAIDSTONE plays its part in Motown's 50th anniversary celebrations by hosting the celebratory concert Reach Out!

The Tops 'n' Temps will be paying tribute to the legendary record label's top male vocal groups, The Four Tops and The Temptations. Backed by The Motorcity Orchestra, they promise a musical celebration that will be the party of the year.

For more than 12 years, Reach Out! has recreated the sights and sounds of these two

classic acts for contemporary audiences.

Founded in Detroit in 1959, Motown became the first label to achieve pop chart success with primarily black artists. With their stylish suits, smooth choreography and tight vocal harmonies, The Temptations scored hit after hit with songs like My Girl, Ain't Too Proud To Beg and Papa Was A Rollin' Stone. During their 40-year career, The Four Tops became Motown's most successful male vocal act with tracks such as Reach Out I'll Be There.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £16/£15. To book tickets, call the box office on 01622 758611 or visit the website at www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk

THE PANTILES

Thursday, June 4 to Thursday September 3
The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells



MUSIC will be in the air in Tunbridge Wells this summer as The Pantiles' jazz season gets underway.

Every Thursday (except July 9) a fantastic act will be giving a free concert on the Bandstand, appealing to both established jazz fans and new audiences alike. Each week there will be something different, ranging from the exuberant Latin swing of The Cuban Violets, who open the season this week, to the warm and soulful sounds of the Sarah Ward Jazz Quartet on June 25.

Other acts lined up to perform include the energetic Protect The Beat on June 11, dynamic new band The LCD Trio on June 18 and Derek Nash – of Jools Holland's Rhythm and Blues Orchestra – and the Sax Appeal Quartet on July 2.

The music continues on July 16 with The



Broadway Band, followed by the Karen Sharp Trio, the Trudy Kerr Quartet, John Etheridge Quartet, Karen Lane and the Paul Malsom Band (pictured), Soul Serenade and the Mike Hext Quintet. The season draws to a close on September 3 with a concert by Over The Edge.

For more information, visit the website at www.thepantilesonline.co.uk

LEEDS CASTLE

Saturday, June 6 and
Sunday June 7
Leeds Castle, near Maidstone



HOT on the heels of the Chelsea Flower Show, gardening enthusiasts can indulge their passion at Leeds Castle this weekend.

Plant lovers can browse an inspiring range of stock from local nurseries and garden centres, while other exhibitors will be showcasing the best of local and international crafts, all against the backdrop of the beautiful castle.

Anyone who would love to have greener fingers can pick up tips from the experts during the Gardening Question Time Sessions and there will be give-aways to



delight gardeners. Plenty of inspiration can be found in the castle's stunning grounds, where the gardening team will be on hand to answer questions.

With its 900-year history, royal connections and exciting attractions, Leeds Castle is a fantastic place to look for

inspiring horticultural or craft buys.

Key to the Castle tickets, which are valid for one year from the date of purchase, cost £15/£12.50 for adults and £9.50 for children.

For more information, call 01622 765400 or visit www.leeds-castle.com

MAIDSTONE LEISURE

Marine life becomes artist's Swansong

THE life cycle of coral has inspired a new exhibition at Mascalls Gallery, Paddock Wood.

Anna Cocciaferro has been working at Mascalls School to create costumes and textile sculptures. There will be an opening celebration of Coralline Swansong from 2pm-4pm on Saturday.

The exhibition ends on June 27. Visit www.mascallsgallery.org for details.

Lounge guests will be music to your ears

DISCOVER more Kent music talent tonight with Paul Dunton and Guests.

Tom Hunt, Rob Sandall, Bea Everett and Longspoon will be performing at the Grey Lady Music Lounge in The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells. The evening starts at 7.30pm and admission costs £5.

For more information, visit www.myspace.com/paulduntonandguests or www.thegreylady.co.uk

Catch comedy drift and feel Miles better

ANYONE who wonders where their life and potential has gone will enjoy the company of comedian Miles Jupp.

The award-winning stand-up presents his latest show, Drifting, at the Trinity Theatre, in Tunbridge Wells, tomorrow night.

The show starts at 8pm and tickets cost £12.50/£10.50. To book, call 01892 678678 or visit www.trinitytheatre.net

Artists open up to showcase their talent

FIND out more about the work of Kent's creative people during this year's South East Open Studios.

Artists across the county will open their doors to the public, exhibiting their works. A guide and artist directory can be downloaded from the website.

South East Open Studios runs from Friday until Sunday June 21. For information go online at www.seos-art.org

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price £10

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Find out all about farm life on Open Sunday

FIND out where your food comes from by taking advantage of Open Farm Sunday.

Farms around Kent will be opening their gates to the public on Sunday, giving consumers the chance to discover the story behind their food. Many farms taking part across the country in this national day will be offering tractor rides, activities and demonstrations.

To find your nearest participating farm call 01189 475956 or visit the website at www.farmsunday.org.

Book time with a Sikh Guru at Bluewater

DISCOVER the hidden history of Hazoor Sahib in a new book that sheds light on the final resting place of the Tenth Sikh Guru.

Expert swordsman Nidar Singh Nihang and historian Parmjit Singh will be signing copies of their illustrated book, In The Master's Presence: The Sikhs of Hazoor Sabib, at Bluewater on Saturday. Meet them at Waterstone's from 11am to 3pm. A £10 discount is available to anyone who buys the book on the day.

Enjoy stories about the Pantiles over a coffee

ENCHANTING tales about the historic Pantiles can be enjoyed in a new book about the Tunbridge Wells landmark.

The Pantiles' owner Targetfellow, has published a coffee table book celebrating the area's 400-year history. It includes information about how the Chalybeate Spring was discovered in 1606.

A Small Corner of England: A Huge Chunk of History is available from The Pantiles, the Corn Exchange and Tourist Information Centre, priced at £9.99.

Get clicked on to save on hidden holiday costs

AVOID the hidden costs of going on holiday by checking out potential airport fees and charges in advance.

Airport Parking and Hotels has a table on its website which compares 20 of the UK's largest airports, highlighting such details as drop-off fees and charges for security bags, baggage trolleys and fast track security.

Find out how to make your journey cheaper, easier and quicker by visiting the website at www.aph.com.

Brighten up summer with Body Shop goods

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Jun 19	Lakeside, Hayling Island**	3	£184	£179	LH6-2

Our Deal LH6-2 also includes 2 free drinks per person per night

Jul 13	*Norton Grange, Hayling Island + 50p Bar	4	-	£269	NS7
Dec 18	Cricket St Thomas, Somerset + Free Bar	3	-	£249	CT12

Jan 1	Littlecote House, Berks + Free Bar	2	-	£169	LX1
Jan 15	*Bembridge, Isle of Wight + Free Bar	3	-	£239	BW1

* Bembridge & Norton Grange breaks include return car ferry
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■ BY BELINDA SZONERT

SHE'S small, she's cute and she's one of the Dutch city of Utrecht's most famous exports.

Miffy, or Nijntje, as the little white rabbit is known in her native Holland, is a popular book and TV character across the globe.

Utrecht, about an hour's drive from the port of Rotterdam, is the birthplace of Miffy creator and local resident Dick Bruna.

But Utrecht is more than the home of Miffy. It's the perfect place for a short break, with pedestrian quaysides lining a network of 14th-century canals, plus bars and restaurants, great shopping and an eclectic mix of tourist attractions.

Founded by the Romans, Utrecht is

Go Dutch in Holland's capital

almost 2,000 years old and was once the largest and most important city in Holland. Today, it is one of Holland's newest city-break destinations.

The focal point is the Dom Church and its tower. A nave once connected the two, but in 1674 this collapsed during a storm. The church and tower were never reconnected, and a street and square now separate the two structures.

Regular tours, with an English-speaking guide, start from the visitor centre and those with plenty of energy can climb the 465 steps to the top of the 112m tower.

The mechanically- and musically-minded, and those with a sense of fun, are sure to enjoy

a visit to the nearby National Museum From Musical Clock To Street Organ.

The museum attracts thousands of visitors each year who come to see automatic musical instruments from the 15th century to today.

Our guide tells us that one of the favourite pieces with the public is the rather strange sounding Rabbit In A Cabbage.

But there's another rabbit on the block – and she can boast a museum of her own!

The Dick Bruna Huis is a must for Miffy aficionados of all ages. There are displays charting Bruna's extraordinary career for the grown-ups, while children can hear stories and play.

The Dick Bruna Huis is part of the Centraal Museum on the opposite side of the street. Highlights from the collection here include works by 17th-century Utrecht Caravaggists – who were inspired by Caravaggio – and 16th-century painter Jan van Scorel.

The Museum Quarter, as it's known, is easy to explore on foot and even includes an Aboriginal Art Museum.

For a different perspective on what the city has to offer, a canal cruise comes highly recommended, while Utrecht also boasts Holland's largest shopping mall, Hoog Catharijne.

This really is the city with everything.

FACT FILE: HOLLAND



Time difference	+1 hour (GMT)
Capital	Amsterdam
Language	Dutch
Population	16.5 million
Currency	£1 = 1.15 Euros
Religion	Roman Catholic
Climate	Maritime

Travel details

Belinda Szonert was a guest of the Netherlands Board of Tourism and P&O Ferries, which runs daily overnight Hull-Rotterdam crossings from £152 each way for a car and two passengers sharing an en-suite cabin.

Accommodation in Utrecht starts at €9750 per night at the NH Centre Utrecht Hotel, close to the canals, shopping district, restaurants and cafes.

Hotel reservations: 0031 3023 13169 and www.nh-hotels.com. Destination information: Netherlands Board of Tourism, 0207 539 7950 and www.holland.com

Visits: National Museum From Musical Clock to Street Organ (www.museumspeelklok.nl); Dick Bruna Huis (www.dickbrunahuis.nl); city canal cruises (www.schuttevaer.com).



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YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETSS

I'M RUNNING SAINSBURY'S

Channel 4, 9pm, Tuesday

BEFORE I entered into the world of journalism I worked in a branch of Sainsbury's for a while.

Well, six months and a day to be exact and I think it's safe to say it was possibly the worst half-year of my life.

I've paid my dues sticking six can multipacks of Diet Coke in perfect pyramid formations hour after hour.

I was only part-time, but each shift would grind on and on until it started to feel like time was actually going backwards as customers relentlessly marched towards me like wave after wave of the undead wanting only to know what aisle the pickled onions had been moved to.

In my time there what always struck me about the place was the snottiness of the general management team who seemed to think they operated on a higher plain than the rest of humanity, when they were in fact just running a regional supermarket which would make money if Scooby Doo and Shaggy were in charge.

With those painful days still kicking up their fair share of painful dust in my memory banks, I was looking forward to the new show from Channel 4, I'm Running Sainsbury's.

Indeed, running Sainsbury's was often notion I wished I could put in practice as, time and again, I got a rollinglicking for squeezing four rows of Pringles into the gap where there should only have been three.

This four-part show lets those who spend their time on the shop floor take over from the usual managers.

Britain's oldest supermarket chain, which is said to make up to £30,000 a



CHECK IT OUT: I'm Running Sainsbury's sees shop floor staff take charge of the supermarket minute, is intent on uncovering some super new ideas from the staff.

Chief executive Justin King reckons those who do most of the donkey work should get their say in how to make the store a better place for everybody and all this definitely does not have anything to do with free advertising during a prime time slot – okay!

If nothing else I guess they are really sticking to the message of their latest slogan "try something new today".

It should be fascinating watching the staff try to make an impact and it should be even more interesting to see if the store takes any of their ideas on board once the hype and publicity from the whole process has died away.

If nothing else, I guess it can't be any worse than Supermarket Sweep...

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YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

JUST because you don't have the time or money to go back to school doesn't mean your learning will come to a halt. Head for the library and check out some books devoted to your favourite subject. Some will be over your head, but others will be right up your alley.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

YOUR brain is moving at a million miles a minute. This is an excellent time to work on a project that has been giving you lots of grief. All of a sudden what seemed like insurmountable problems become minor inconveniences. You're especially good at finding ways to make money.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

SPENDING money on a timesaving gadget will pay off. It might cost a packet, but you will make the most of this device. If you're looking for a job, you could find one in fashion, design or entertainment. Don't be afraid to negotiate a higher salary than is initially offered.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22)

TEAMWORK is the name of the game this week. Taking the helm of a group will help you to focus on the most important tasks, while subordinates take care of the detail work. Resist the urge to micromanage people. By trusting their abilities, they'll rise to the challenge.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

IT feels as though you can read a loved one's mind and they may be concerned that you're not demonstrative enough. Although it's true you show your affection through thoughtful deeds, rather than physical affection, that may not be sufficient. Step up your game a little.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

LIFE is about to become a lot more fun. If you're in the market for romance you could meet someone special. Keep your ears open for someone with a sexy laugh. If you're already in a relationship, this would be a good time to plan leisurely outings with your beloved.

- To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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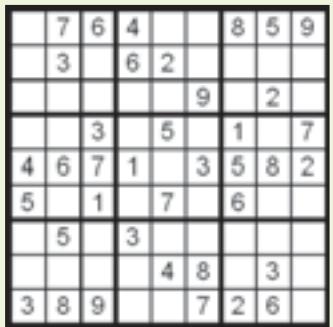
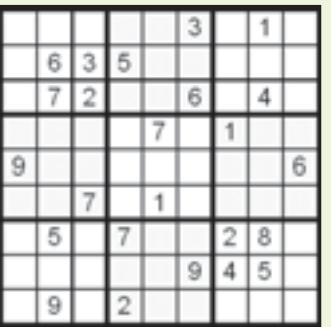
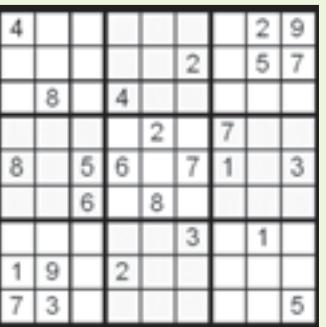
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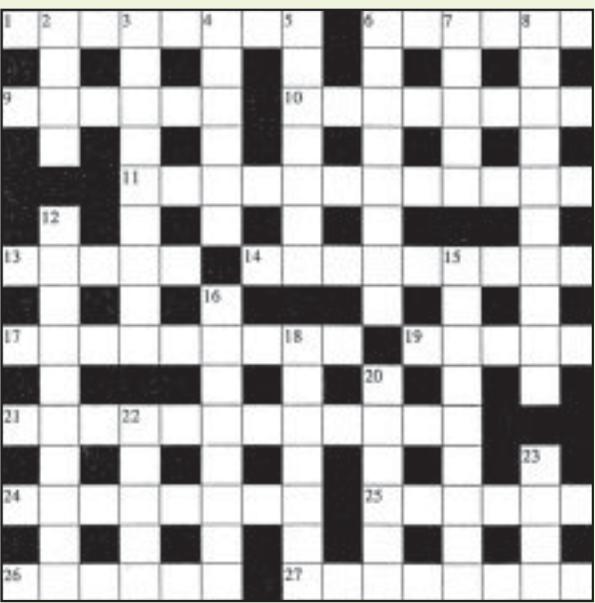


CROSSWORD & SUDOKU**No90**SPONSORED BY
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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

EASY**MEDIUM****HARD****CRYPTIC CLUES****ACROSS**

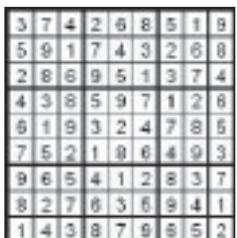
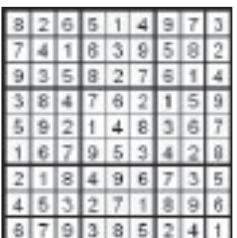
- 1 Fellow showed the way round said ruins covered in yellowish spots (8)
- 2 Even if eastern balti was stirred (6)
- 3 Person writing very little three times (6)
- 4 Non-contributing member of society (8)
- 5 Keeping out of castiron oven (12)
- 6 Poet in lobby Ronald admitted (5)
- 7 Nervous pain one might have to face (9)
- 8 Some of them stitched ornamental finishing (9)
- 9 Dodge lady about now (5)
- 10 Dot went after uniformed girl with mark of approval (7,5)
- 11 Poison from a port back in the Orient (8)
- 12 Turned on spy who is still in (3,3)
- 13 Said to be part of body of breakwater (6)
- 14 Permanent reputation (8)
- 15 Animal, marsupial initially needing space (4)
- 16 Take a short route to slice in two (3,6)
- 17 Animal seized artist round throat (6)
- 18 Drain Penny allowed to be put in river (7)
- 19 Against a redhead in a potentially dark environment finding edentate (8)
- 20 Live group hemmed in (5)
- 21 Wavering at home with more than one thought? (2,3,5)
- 22 Kind author, one worked in the pool (10)
- 23 Matthew going over gallery had finally hovered (9)
- 24 Four repeatedly in another side creating discord (8)
- 25 Evergreen island reported (7)
- 26 Plant last character in North Iowa (6)
- 27 Dazed at court, zany with article removed (5)
- 28 One of five squinting inside (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE**QUICK CLUES****ACROSS**

- 1 Utensil for making soup (8)
- 2 Counterbalance (3,3)
- 3 Genial (6)
- 4 Uncivilised (8)
- 5 Drawing one's attention (12)
- 6 Wed (5)
- 7 Indoctrinate (9)
- 8 Plant of the primrose family (9)
- 9 Pungent (5)
- 10 Discovery (12)
- 11 Across country (8)
- 12 Muslim official (6)
- 13 Bracelet (6)
- 14 Ethics (8)

DOWN

- 1 Implement (4)
- 2 Part of helmet underneath jaw (9)
- 3 Head support (6)
- 4 Cylindrical (7)
- 5 Harem (8)
- 6 Feature (5)
- 7 Amity (10)
- 8 Cabby (4-6)
- 9 Yellow-flowered shrub (4-5)
- 10 Lengthen (8)
- 11 Am older (anag.) (7)
- 12 Musical note (6)
- 13 Spring month (5)
- 14 Achievement (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS**SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No89****EASY****MEDIUM****HARD**

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No89

ACROSS: 1 Iron ore 5 Shuffle 9 Avow 10 Masquerade 12 Intaglio 13 Theism 14 Thick-and-thin 17 Experiencing 21 Odd-job 23 Top-brass 24 Astuteness 25 Lamb 26 Friends 27 New York.

DOWN: 2 Raving 3 Newcastle 4 Remblai 6 Houston 7 Furze 8 Ladybird 11 Stockinette 15 Tiger-lily 16 Oxidiser 18 Inbreed 19 Impasse 20 Isomer 22 Joule.

QUICK SOLUTION No90

ACROSS: 1 Iron ore 5 Shuffle 9 Avow 10 Masquerade 12 Intaglio 13 Theism 14 Thick-and-thin 17 Experiencing 21 Odd-job 23 Top-brass 24 Astuteness 25 Lamb 26 Friends 27 New York.

DOWN: 2 Raving 3 Newcastle 4 Remblai 6 Houston 7 Furze 8 Ladybird 11 Stockinette 15 Tiger-lily 16 Oxidiser 18 Inbreed 19 Impasse 20 Isomer 22 Joule.

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SWEET DEBS

Hopeful, happy, shy girl, 22, loves all the normal stuff about life, searching for a mature guy, 24-39, for loving friendship and happiness. Box 80373

A VERY BUBBLY PERSON

Very shy young lady, 24, brown hair and blue eyes, seeking caring and outgoing man for good times and socialising. Box 452306

MATCH ON THE DAY

Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 512, a genuine fan of football. Enjoying going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her ultimate. Box 446494

NOT YOUR

BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...
Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 511, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me times. Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

DESTINI CALLING

Hello all I'm 28, 515, dark hair, blue-green eyes, likes going out, the cinema, the gym, looking for LTR with a long, caring male. Box 452305

ME AND YOU

Medium build girl, 29, brown hair, green eyes, seeking honest guy who looks after number one, for lasting relationship. Box 451834

GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

Sociable girl, 28, loves pubs, social drinks, meeting new people & more, seeks similar male 58-62, for a lasting relationship. Box 448756

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving loyal female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 6ft+, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 449471

SEEKING MR DARCY

Warm, kind and sincere woman, 31, lots of love and loyalty for the right person, seeking an honest genuine man with a good heart. Box 451004

HORSES FOR COURSES...

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 512, blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

CUDDLY FEMALE

32, 515, brown hair, curly figure, enjoys having fun and a laugh and WLTM nice, kind gent. Box 439402

FIT FOR FUN

Petite, dark-haired girl, 33, 5ft, fit, loves badminton, cinema and more, searching for an active man, with heart and soul. Box 881047

SOUND GOOD?

Hello I'm 35, kind, caring and non-smoking, enjoy cooking, cinema, music, dining in and out, looking for that special someone to enjoy a relationship with. Box 447595

LIVING IT

Fair-haired female, 35, 5ft, loves the gym, pubs, nights out and fine company, searching for fun, blonde, for life, love and laughter. Box 881011

HISTORIC MEETING?

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693

GALLOP AHEAD!

Maidstone-based woman, 36, 5ft5, slim, blue eyes, I'm caring, honest and have 4 children. I enjoy drives and horse riding and WLTM honest, reliable man. Box 451311

PERHAPS PERHAPS

Fun, bubbly, outgoing blonde, late 30s, down-2-earth, with GSOH, searching for tall, genuine fella, for fun, friendship and more? Box 451385

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NO TIES
Lonely, bored, professional Turbridge Wells Asian lady, 40, WLTM slim, single, solvent, professional white male 40-50 for company, fun, love and laughter. Box 443573

BETWEEN US
Asian lady, 41, single, no ties, out going, fun loving, professional, looking for a white male, genuine, professional and solvent. Box 451900

FANCY A DRINK?
Hi I'm Judith, 40, small, blonde hair, blue eyes, love the sea and water-sports, cinema, animals; WLTM fun-loving guy for friendship and see what happens. Box 448107

LOVE TO LOVE YOU
Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

SEIZE THE DAY
Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, sees genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

BLONDE AMBITION
Nice looking, 41 yr old mixed race female, likes cinema, walks, eating out, bowling, WLTM a genuine friend for long-term/serious relationship. Box 450890

ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE
Hello, I'm Nikki, 41 yr young, 5ft1, enjoys dining out, cinema and dancing, seeking a male for friendship, possible romance and fun times. Box 905614

LOVING FULL OF LOVE
Nice looking, 41 yr old mixed race female, likes cinema, walks, eating out, bowling, WLTM a genuine friend for long-term/serious relationship. Box 451910

A FAIRY TALE ENDING
Easy-going blonde animal lover, 41, easy-going and tactile, enjoys eating out, cinema and pubs, looking for a loyal, caring and funny man, 35-45. Box 451079

COME ON DOWN!
Honest, bubbly female 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, socialising, seeks honest, friendly chap for friendship leading to more. Box 882693

CARING & PROFESSIONAL
Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim, likes eating out, the beach, travel, a friendly chap, a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Box 448293

LOVING IT LARGE
Spiritual 44 yr old female, enjoys gardening, cooking and walks on the beach, WLTM a warm, loving and caring male for friendship, maybe a chap. Box 448403

JOUREY TOGETHER
Coy, shy, cheeky, loving black lady, 45, enjoys the sunshine, holidays, drinks, films and music, looking for a man to complete me as I will him. Box 451721

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Understanding, caring female, 45, 5ft4, medium build, brown hair, likes cinema, animals, music, romantic pubs, seeking male for cuddles, hugs and more. Box 444873

MAID MARIAN!
Hi, I'm Marlene, petite, blonde, green eyes, 44, looking for my Mr Right, to have fun with and enjoy lasting relationship. Box 448483

I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY
Hello I'm Karen, 42, dark brown hair, medium build, GSOH, looking for a man with no issues and GSOH who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204

COSY TIMES TOGETHER
Fun-loving female, 42, looking for someone who can make me laugh and enjoys country walks, films, travelling, seeking a male for friendship and more. Box 448624

MAID MARIAN!
Hi, I'm Marlene, petite, blonde, green eyes, 44, looking for my Mr Right, to have fun with and enjoy lasting relationship. Box 448483

ACTIVE TYPE
Lively, energetic and fun loving mum, 42, I'm 5ft1, petite, pretty, blonde/brown hair/hazel eyes, WLTM mixed race/black gent, to share good times with. Box 451819

A WARM HEART AND GSOH
Lovely bubbly mum, 43, 5ft6, green eyes, dark hair, medium build, loves salsa dancing, new things, bowling, quiet nights in...looking for companionship and more. Box 880090

YOU NEVER KNOW
Kind, loving and caring mum, 43, 5ft5, round but cuddly! Just looking for someone to share my life with...how about you? Box 446457

PROFESSIONAL
Fun bubbly sex black female, 42, outgoing, positive, fun-loving mom, 42, I'm 5ft1, petite, pretty, blonde/brown hair/hazel eyes, WLTM mixed race/black gent, to share good times with. Box 451744

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL
Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with GSOH for friendship/relationship. Box 450348

CUTE AS CAN BE
Outgoing female 34, 5ft8, 6ft, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship or possibly romance. Box 887983

ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED!
Lively pretty big-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! Likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking a nice man for potential exciting relationship! Box 446724

THE WIT TO WOO!
Kent female, 40, 5ft7, dark eyes, GSOH, no lies, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 152862

JOINED AT THE HIP
Socially petite girl with great SOH, 40, blonde, sociable, love football! Looking for fun guy with great SOH for inseparable partnership. Box 880433

FOR A RELATIONSHIP?
Shy but confident once-known female, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE
Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys wine, the theatre, music and eating out, seeks a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

UNDERSTAND ME
Open, honest straight girl, 37, 5'6", slim, pale and cute, own home, searching for sensual, strong, younger man, to help me relax and enjoy life. Box 451524

TLC ON OFFER FOR THE RIGHT PERSON!
Blonde, blue eyed woman, 44, fun-loving, looking for Mr Right. I love going out, nights in, movies, going out, staying in, seeks similar man, 42-50. Ayleford. Box 428683

HEY BOYS
Single mum with two boys, 44, likes socialising and drinking, 6ds & 7ds music, seeks similar man for relationship. Box 452294

FANCY A DRINK?
Hi I'm 44, slim, 5ft8, a red-head, love nights out, socialising, looking for a friendly initial and hopefully more later on. Box 889800

COME ON DOWN!
Honest, bubbly female 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, travel, a friendly chap for friendship/relationship. Box 449524

BE MY GUY
Young 50s lady, slim, 5ft4, fair hair, a smoker, loves music, going out, cooking, gardening, seeking similar loving, caring, honest male. Box 449288

HERE AND NOW
Outgoing lady, 50, enjoys walks along the beach, nights out and in with a quiet bottle of wine, seeks man to love forever. Box 449524

CARING & PROFESSIONAL
Female 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim, likes eating out, the beach, travel, a friendly chap for friendship/relationship. Box 447100

MADE ME SMILE AGAIN
Seeking genuine lady, 38yr old male, 5ft9, dark hair/blue eyes, I work hard, play hard, would like to enjoy spare time with partner. Box 449649

FULL MARKS
Hi I'm Andrew, 38, 6ft3, dark hair, blue eyes, handsome guy, friendly, tacit, outgoing, likes enjoying life, WLTM a genuine female for friend/relationship. Box 443488

MARSHAL ME
Chris, 39, 5ft7, stocky, green-blue eyes, short hair, Virgo, GSOH, love swimming, walks on beaches, days out, seeking similar female for loving times. Box 434089

BE A GOOD CHAT, A DINK, A KISS...
Reasonably handsome white English guy, 5ft8, muscular, solvent, intelligent, lots of interests, reads, plays chess, seeking similar partner for lasting LTR. Turbridge Wells, Box 452288

QUICK WITTED
Ex-athlete, male, 56, 6ft tall, blond. I'm warm, affectionate and enjoy good food and wine. WLTM tall slim, sharp minded woman. Box 451307

**LIKE IT MOST
BY THE COAST!**
53yr old male, 6ft, brown hair, blue eyes, own company enjoys coast, countryside, swimming and beach, restaurants, theatre, days out, badminton. Box 44167

DO THEY ALL DO IN THE MOVIES
Hi I'm Richelle, 29, 5ft7, stocky, blue eyes, blonde hair, green-blue eyes, 5ft10, shaved brown hair, medium-muscular build, a bather, loves movies and cinema, seeks similar girl to get to know... Box 452246

SHARP EYES
Hard-working, romantic 60yr old male, love animals, walks on the beach, countryside, swimming and sea-fishing, looking for someone special to share life with. Box 452216

ACTIVELY ME?
Caring, loving, caring male, 61, 5ft10, slim, fit build, active, likes walks, cycling, the gym, cinema, holidays abroad; seeking similar lady to work with. Box 452273

IN LOVE
80s male looking for lady for loving friends. I'm honest, sincere, genuine and love a laugh, hoping for lasting romance. Box 451889

BIG DEAL OR DEAL
Wife & toddler mom, 42, 6ft, likes socialising, pubs, clubs, nights in, seeks like-minded female, for friendship, leading to more. Box 388967

NEW BEGINNING
Sincere genuine man, 47, 5ft9, cropped hair, blue eyes, clean shaven, likes swimming, looking for a great personality. Box 884027

ATTRACTIVE FELLA
Tall, dark, handsome chap, 33yrs old, I'm looking for a lively, attractive woman, 21-47, to get to know. Give me a call! Box 451893

GOT THAT LOVING FEELING?
Active 33yr old guy, 5ft9, likes swimming, motorbikes, cinema, clubs, pubs, looking for a slim and good-looking lady, 30-40, similar height, for a relationship. Box 448202

MAKE MY MARK
Attractive single father, 35, 5ft7, brown eyes, likes swimming, pub, sports and family. Box 448566

SOMETHING NEW
Caring female with GSOH, 58, 5ft2, brown hair, likes beach walks, theatre, holidays and music, WLTM male with GSOH, genuine, for friendship, maybe more. Box 447662

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?
Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man, 42-52 for love and TLC. Box 444366

GENUINE REPILES ONLY
Bubbly female, 44, Brunette, N/S, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pren non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955

JUST IMAGINE
Petite, blonde, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mom, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTM genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562

I HAVE A DREAM
Blonde, bubbly curvy female, 59, looks younger, fun to be with, honest, seeks caring male to be my soulmate. GSOH. Box 883891

HAPPY AS ME
Fun-to-be-with, happy, contented lady, 60, 5ft4, I enjoy theatre, dining out and having friends round for a meal, gardening and pets. Box 88212

EXPERIENCE MATTERS
Down-to-earth, laid back guy, a father of 2, 5ft7, 35, brown eyes, shaved head. I enjoy eating out, swimming, films and family time. Box 451418

SHARING GOOD TIMES
Independent dad, 35, 6ft, blond hair, blue eyes, slim-medium build, great N/S, likes nights in/out, pubbing, etc, seeking female who's honest. Box 446966

LOVING, FAITHFUL & TRUSTWORTHY
Hi lovely ladies, Attractive black man, 48, born in London, clean healthy professional, seeking an English rose, 40-60, for LTR. Box 452247

GET ME OUTTA HERE!
Loyal, trustworthy, honest family man, 37, independent, stocky, 5ft6, non-smoker, VGOH, thoughtful, aware of others people's feelings, with morals/standards. Aquarian. Seeking similar loving lady. Box 879755

TO SHARE LIFE WITH
Passionate Gardner, 38, 5ft9, medium-blue eyes, average-stocking built, curly mousey hair, likes tennis and music, being sociable! Seeking nice passionate genuine lady. Box 451992

A NEW LIFE
New to the area, 38, likes music, eating out, travelling, looking for a lovely lady to spend some time with. Box 452179

HOMELY SORT
Hello there, I'm looking for a kind, gentle partner, a homely fella, with GSOH. I'm 66, and enjoy cinema, reading, antiques, gardening, music. Box 451409

UNDERSTAND ME
Open, honest straight girl, 37, 5'6", slim, pale and cute, own home, searching for sensual, strong, younger man, to help me relax and enjoy life. Box 451524

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- 10p/min all times.

PROPERTY NEWS

Small building firms call for cut in VAT

A CALL for a VAT cut for small firms in the building sector could go some way towards boosting trade, according to a survey.

The Federation of Small Businesses claims a five per cent flat rate for home renovations could help small businesses "struggling against a backdrop of decreasingly bad trade".

The industry had pushed the Government heavily in the run-up to the Budget for a cut in VAT on renovation – after a decision in Europe allowed nations to drop the tax rate on a number of services.

A survey by the FSB showed 59 per cent of respondents in the building sector said their trade had fallen in the last six months, with 37 per cent concerned that their financial prospects were poor.

Almost half of those surveyed said it was the lack of demand that was fuelling the negative impact on their businesses. A key concern for business was the 15 per cent VAT rate.

John Walker of the FSB, said: "Confidence in the smaller building projects around the country has dropped to a low, and people who were thinking of adding an extension to their home, renovating their bathroom or building a garage, should be given the incentive to go ahead."

'Greater incentives are needed to go green'

POLICIES to reduce carbon emissions will fail without greater green incentives, a lobby group for property owners has claimed.

The British Property Federation (BPF) said real estate should be one of the easiest areas to make carbon emissions savings but the Government needed to encourage landlords and tenants to work together to make cuts.

Liz Peace, chief executive of the BPF, said: "The Government should explore how the tax system might be used to incentivise improvements by altering the conundrum we have over how the benefits from improvements are shared between landlords and tenants."

The BPF said the Government had ignored the fact that most commercial property was rented.

Ms Peace said: "This means landlords cannot simply walk into a tenant's shop, for example, and turn the lights off. Therefore, any incentives and responsibilities for improving energy performance are widely split between the two groups."



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How much are you paying for your HIP?

■ BY NICK AMES

THE Law Society is urging home-sellers to check the real cost of their Home Information Pack with their estate agent to avoid inflated costs.

The warning comes after a Channel 4 News investigation found evidence that more than £100 could be getting added to the price of HIPs because of secret payments to estate agents.

With many estate agents hiring HIP providers to supply home-sellers with the evaluation, the Law Society is calling on sellers to check very carefully how much their agent is charging for the HIP.

Law Society president Paul Marsh said: "The cost of the HIP charged to the home-seller by the estate agent could be much higher than necessary and more than the agent actually pays the HIP provider.

"Because of these hidden referral fees the estate agent is overcharging the seller and making a secret profit.

"Sellers should ask for details of the exact costs to discover if the agent is charging them more than they should be, and more than the HIP actually cost the estate agent.

"They should also ask if the estate agent is receiving a hidden commission from the HIP provider, which would mean the estate agents are keeping part of the cost themselves. If the agent is paying £300 to the HIP provider and then charging their

client £400, the client is paying an extra £100 unnecessarily. With the other costs involved in selling, these added costs are unwanted extras.

"If sellers do find their agent is charging extra for their HIP they should ask their solicitor if they provide a HIP instead, as solicitors are required to be fully open with their clients about fees.

"The added benefit of using a solicitor is that they are all strictly regulated and required to follow stringent rules, unlike estate agents."

Concerns

In the latest legislation on house sales anyone hoping to sell their home needs a HIP in place before they can put the property on the market, raising the risk of quickly-arranged HIPs that are inaccurate.

The Law Society has also raised concerns over the new Property Information Questionnaires which are now a feature of HIPs, requiring sellers to answer questions about their home.

Mr Marsh added: "PIQs are supposed to provide information for potential buyers about the property, but if they are not completed correctly it could harm the relationship between buyer and seller, which is the last outcome anyone wants, especially now when the market is so slow.

"A solicitor will be able to assist in completing the questionnaire to ensure it is accurate."



CAREFUL: All smiles, but how much is your estate agent making on the deal?

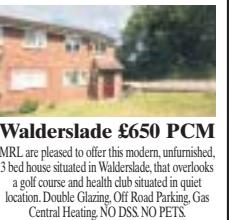
LEARN HOW ENERGY CONSERVATION IN THE HOME CAN BEAT THE CREDIT CRUNCH. SEARCH 'MONEY' @ propertyforkent.co.uk

**Maidstone £1,100 PCM**

MRL Bring this stunning, newly refurbished detached house set in an ideal location on the outskirts of Maidstone Town Centre. The accommodation comprises of 4 Double bedrooms, New bathroom, New Cloakroom, New Fitted Kitchen. The rest of the house is decorated to a very high standard through out, including new carpets, new double glazing and new central heating through out. An internal Viewing is a must.

**Maidstone £500 PCM**

MRL are delighted to bring to the market this newly renovated one bedroomed property. The property has a Lounge/Diner and Kitchen with Fitted Gas Hob and Electric oven, Washer/Dryer. Stairs to the first floor leading to Double Bedroom with fitted carpet and Ensuite Shower Room. Available Now.

**Walderslade £650 PCM**

MRL are pleased to offer this modern, unfurnished, 3 bed house situated in Walderslade, that overlooks a golf course and health club situated in quiet location. Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Gas Central Heating NO DSS NO PETS.

**Loose £850 PCM**

Semi detached house in sought after Loose. Newly decorated throughout. Lounge/diner, fitted kitchen with washing machine, fridge/freezer, electric cooker, 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower. Garden, garage and driveway for 3 cars. Gas heating. Available Now. UNFURNISHED

**Maidstone £1,700 PCM**

MRL offer this attractive Semi detached converted oast house with a wealth of accommodation. Set in the rural countryside on the outskirts of Maidstone and is still with in easy access of the main line train stations and M20 Motorway. The property is available now for viewing.



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**Boughton £600 PCM**

MRL are delighted to be able to bring to the rental market the BRAND NEW 2 bedroomed apartments in a newly built development. It boasts of 1 double, 1 single, a family bathroom with a power shower over the bath, open plan kitchen with all your mod cons which opens up to the lounge area. The property also comes with off street parking, set on the outskirts of Maidstone and Sutton Valence.

**Maidstone £725 PCM**

MRL are pleased to be able to offer this two bedroom house to the rental market. The accommodation comprises large kitchen, lounge and ground floor cloakroom. On the first floor there is the master bedroom with en-suite shower room and a further bedroom and family bathroom. The property also benefits from gas central heating, parking and a garden. The property is available for immediate occupation.

**Maidstone £1,200 PCM**

MRL are pleased to be able to offer this stunning Riverside property. 3 Double Beds all with ensuites, Riverside balcony and Riverside Sun-terrace. Available furnished or unfurnished.

www.connells.co.uk
www.rightmove.co.uk

Maidstone Branch



Connells

PUBLIC NOTICE

Connells are now in receipt of an offer for the sum of £175,000 for 61 Bower Lane, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 8EH. Anyone wishing to place an offer on this property should contact Connells, 30 King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1BS, tele: 01622 751034, before exchange of contracts.

Maidstone £375,000

- Detached Character House
- High Ceilings, No Chain!
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Maidstone £325,000

- Attractive, Extended Family Home
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Maidstone £215,000

- 3 Bed Victorian Mid Terrace Home
- Character Features, Cellar Room
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Maidstone £85,000

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- Communal Gardens
- Residents Lounge
- Lifts, Warden Assisted

Larkfield £280,000-£320,000

- Four Bedroom Town House
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- Three Bathrooms, Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking, Garage

Barming £154,995

- 2 bedroom terrace
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Maidstone £179,995

- Four bedroom period property.
- Period fireplaces
- Off road parking
- Cellar

Coxheath £199,995

- 22' lounge, dining room
- 3 bedrooms, bathroom, WC
- Double glazing where specified
- Detached garage with power & light

Maidstone £237,500

- 4 Bedroom Semi Detached Home
- Corner Plot Location
- Extended Kitchen, Mote Park Area
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Bearsted £174,995

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Maidstone £274,995

- Beautiful detached property
- 3 bedrooms, Master ensuite
- Delightful gardens, 2 receptions
- Garage, block paved driveway

MANN Countrywide

Maidstone Office
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36 High Street, Maidstone,
Kent ME14 1JH

Grove Green Office
Tel: 01622 735513
2 The Minor Centre, Grove Green,
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Lenham Heath £475,000

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Weavering OIEO £460,000

5 bedroom detached, four reception areas, two bathrooms and en-suite, corner plot.

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Detling £325,000

4 bedroom detached bungalow, fantastic bathroom and separate shower room.

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Maidstone £299,995

5 bedroom detached bungalow with swimming pool and studio annex to rear. Double glazing.

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Weavering £299,995

Detached chalet bungalow, 2 bedrooms both with en-suite bathrooms, non estate location.

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Weavering £195,000

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Maidstone £175,000

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Maidstone £169,995

2 bed Victorian style house with newly fitted kitchen, modern bathroom, 2 receptions.

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Maidstone £164,995

'CHAIN FREE' 3 bedroom semi-detached house with 2 reception rooms, kitchen.

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Maidstone £164,950

3 bedroom semi-detached house with 2 reception rooms, off street parking, no chain.

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Maidstone £162,500

2 bedroom Victorian style terraced house with double glazing, central heating, ORP.

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Maidstone £159,995

3 bedroom extended semi-detached house, 2 reception rooms. Central heating.

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Vinters Park £155,000

Two bedroom terraced, gas central heating, double glazing, no chain.

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Leeds £125,000

Two bedroom first floor maisonette, UPVC double glazing, private rear garden.

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Maidstone £119,950

Grade II listed 2 bedroom terraced home. Lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, 2 loft rooms.

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Maidstone £99,950

1 bedroom house with lounge, open plan kitchen and upstairs bathroom. Double glazing.

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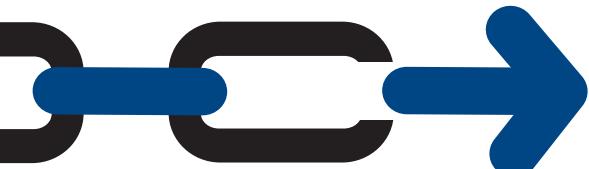


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**SANDLING £280,000**

A rare opportunity. Set in an idyllic location with open views. Lounge/Dining room with imposing Inglenook fireplace and exposed beams thought to be 1000 years old.

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**LOOSE £325,000**

Three bedroom with ensuite to master bedroom. Offers a landscaped rear garden with a southerly aspect, living room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, study and conservatory

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**MAIDSTONE £109,950**

A two bedroom ground floor apartment with ensuite shower room. There is a fitted kitchen with appliances open plan to the living room. The property is double glazed, no forward chain.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

**LOOSE OIEO £185,000**

Semi detached home offering flexible accommodation. Garage, driveway with westerly aspect rear garden. Other benefits include gas central heating, double glazing, extended living room

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**MAIDSTONE OIEO £185,000**

An improved 1930's style semi, adjacent to Mote Park. Benefits from a re-fitted kitchen & bathroom, driveway, garage, rear garden, gas ventral heating and double aspect lounge/dining room.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

**MAIDSTONE £169,950**

A three bedroom semi-detached home with a re-fitted kitchen/dining room, double glazed conservatory and tandem garage. Other benefits include gas central heating and double glazing.

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**MAIDSTONE £105,000**

A first floor one bedroom retirement apartment located in Maidstone town centre. There is a communal lounge, warden, communal gardens and parking. Internal viewing is recommended.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

**WEST MALLING £469,950**

Extended 5 double bedroom chalet bungalow. The ground floor extension incorporates a double bedroom, shower room and utility room which could be utilised as a kitchen.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

**MAIDSTONE £379,950**

A detached home with 4 double bedrooms, be-spoke fitted kitchen is open plan into dining room, living room and conservatory. Offers a utility room, shower room and bathroom.

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**MAIDSTONE £79,950**

A purpose built two bedroom ground floor flat with gas central heating and double glazing. The property does require some updating and is available with no forward chain.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

**MAIDSTONE OIEO £175,000**

A modern 2 bedroom apartment with stunning river views and balconies. Offers a fitted kitchen with appliances, 18' living room, bathroom, double glazing and parking.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

**MAIDSTONE £199,950**

3 bedroom home offers spacious accommodation over three floors. 2 receptions, cloakroom, kitchen breakfast room and ensuite to master. The property is situated in a popular cul-de-sac location.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

**WEST MALLING £299,995**

Converted 2 bedroom single roundel oast with rear garden backing onto orchards. Potential scope to install a second floor within the roundel, subject to planning permission.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

**AYLESFORD £184,995**

Older style four bedroom with shaker style kitchen, dining room with open fire and lounge. Other benefits include gas central heating, double glazing and a rear garden of approximately 80'.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

**MAIDSTONE £159,995**

Terraced yet has side pedestrian access which leads to your rear garden. Ideal for a garage. This home also has the added benefit of being opposite the grounds of Moat Park.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

**MAIDSTONE OIEO £159,995**

A super three bedroom family home with gas central heating and double glazing. Other benefits include a double glazed conservatory. There is no stamp duty payable on this property.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 184 South Park Road, MAIDSTONE, KENT ME15 7AJ

We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £130,500 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

**MAIDSTONE OIEO £115,000**

A two bedroom home on the periphery of the town centre. The cul-de-sac is a retirement complex for the over 60's to retain independent living but have the security of warden assistance.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

**MAIDSTONE £119,950**

Unique 2 bedroom Grade II Listed home. The accommodation is arranged over 3 floors with modern kitchen and bathroom but does require some work. There are two loft rooms with separate staircases.

Maidstone Office 01622 759891

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 34 Waterlow Road, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2TR

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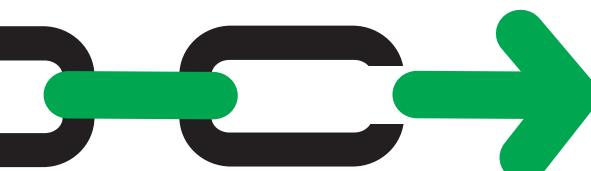
Maidstone Office 01622 759891

**MAIDSTONE £115,000**

A two bedroom lower ground floor apartment situated in the town centre. There are two good size bedrooms, lounge, kitchen and bathroom. This property is offered with no forward chain

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Countrywide



£139,995

Grade II listed two bedroom character cottage with off road parking to rear and available with no chain.



£159,950

Three Bedroom semi detached house in need of refurbishment with sought after village with its good commuter links



£159,995

Offers driveway parking to the front and a lawned garden to the rear, lounge/diner, kitchen, hallway and conservatory



£175,000

Three bedroom family home in popular and sought after area, driveway parking, rear garden, close to town centre



Offers in excess of £180,000

Three bedroom end of terrace situated within half mile of Mote Park and town centre, available immediately



Offers in excess of £184,995

Unusual house, unique accommodation over two storeys, each of which is split level, garage and driveway.



£199,995

Three bedroom semi detached family home is located in the semi rural village of Eccles. reception rooms



Offers in excess of £220,000

Three bedroom family house, two reception rooms including conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room,



£224,995

Lounge, dining area, office and breakfast area open to the kitchen. three bedrooms plus en suite



Offers Over £250,000

Impressive detached family home in a cul de sac position in Loose. Garage, driveway, lounge

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- Kitchen with gas hob
- Laminated flooring
- Bathroom with bath & shower

Hartnup Street £405pcm



- 2nd floor studio
- Part furnished
- Bathroom with shower attachment
- Would suit mature person

Park House £550pcm



- 2 bedroom ground floor flat
- Good sized room
- Off road parking
- Near town centre

Parkwood £550pcm



- Lovely ground floor apartment
- Brand new with parking
- New carpets & fully fitted kitchen
- 1 double & 1 single room

Coral Park £595pcm



- Grnd floor flat in good location
- Parking space for one car
- Fitted kitchen
- Bathroom with power shower

Weavering Street £595pcm



- 1st floor, 2 bed detached flat
- Kitchen & bathroom
- Extremely large living room
- Wooden flooring

Sittingbourne £600pcm



- 2 bed cottage
- 2 double beds, modern bathroom
- Courtyard garden with shed
- Brand new carpets

St Phillips Avenue £635pcm



- Lovely 2 bedroom flat
- Large living area
- Attic bedroom
- Would suit professional couple

The Coachyard £650pcm



- Ground floor apartment
- Master bed with en suite
- Lounge / diner with patio area
- Allocated parking

Glebe Lane £695pcm



- 2 bed apartment on first floor
- Excellent views over orchards
- 2 good sized bedrooms
- Allocated parking, carpets

Sutton Road £775pcm



- 3 bed house
- Ensuite shower room
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Living room and dining area

Albert Reid Gardens £925pcm



- 4 bed town house near town
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- Family bathroom
- Kitchen/breakfast room

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MOTORS NEWS



Most new Prius prices pegged ahead of launch

TOYOTA aims to maintain the momentum of its green champion, the Prius, by defying recessional pressures ahead of launching a new model this August.

So the range continues from £18,370 for the Prius T3 entry model while the T Spirit is also pegged at £21,210, though the mid-range T4 rises £835 to £19,990.

The Mark III version of the petrol-electric hybrid, which has soared in popularity, is claimed to have stronger performance, lower emissions, improved fuel economy and more equipment.



Jazz hits high note on safety and economy

HONDA'S soon to be British-built Jazz has added a safety plus to its reputation as a spacious and economical supermini.

It has been awarded the maximum five-star rating in Euro NCAP's newly overhauled rating scheme, which focuses on a single score for passenger, child and pedestrian protection plus driver safety aids.

This will further boost a car which will switch production to Honda's Swindon plant this autumn, delivering keener prices for recession hit drivers seeking a compact all-rounder.



Mercedes 'Swappage' deal tempts van users

MERCEDES-BENZ has a counter offer to van operators sidelined by the Government's Scrappage scheme – a £2,000 cash incentive whether users have a 10-year-old van to swap or not.

Promoted under the 'Swappage' banner, the deal is on the 109bhp turbodiesel engine Sprinter 311CDI and M-B is chipping in the full £2,000 discount rather than getting half from the Treasury.

The deal is also available on various purchasing arrangements: lease, contract hire or low rate finance.



LITTLE GREEN MACHINE: The Fiat 500, named European Car of the Year 2007, has pioneered Fiat's Eco Drive software which helps the owner to drive more economically

Fiat 500 – the baby that packs a mighty big punch

ROAD TEST FIAT 500

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal



Image



Space



Value



Running costs



Reliability



Green rating



EcoDrive, with consequent savings and a greener conscience.

The 1.2 500 model (0-62mph in 12.9 seconds) should average well over 50mpg anyway and is probably the best buy 500, although the modest £8,300 start price can be blown away by tempting options such as our car's black/chrome alloys (from £300).

And you need Lounge spec (from £9,700) to get a split/folding rear seat; the boot is not huge and you might want to flop down one seat to accommodate extra shopping or an awkward item, yet still carry a rear passenger. But Lounge spec brings air con and alloys as standard plus more.

The 500 interior is a pleasing mix of retro with modern materials of higher quality.

Some may scratch easily, but everything you touch feels tough, including the now trademark 'billiard ball' gear knob.

Inheriting the Fiat Panda running gear and chassis is not all good news; the ride can feel unsettled though the lighter weight of the 1.2 against the 1.4-litre petrol and 1.3-litre diesel, makes it feel more refined and more nimble, while still able to cruise the motorway comfortably.



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USED CAR ROUND-UP:

OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

MITSUBISHI COLT



THIS stylish little car proved to be a lifeline for Mitsubishi dealerships, stuck in a 4x4 time warp and starved so long of mainstream car models to attract a different customer. The Colt is offered in three forms: an MPV-style five-door with masses of space, a lower-slung and pugnacious sporting three-door or a neat Colt convertible (pictured). The CZT three-door hot hatch version is a good second-hand 'pocket rocket' for the money, but the whole range delivers a decent drive.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

JAPANESE SUPERMINIS

SUPERMINIS were not something that Japanese carmakers used to 'do' with much style or verve. They were reliable, of course, but easily outclassed for image and style by European marques. But that changed with the original Toyota Yaris, designed for Europe and made in a country that champions the supermini type, France. The Yaris now faces its stiffest competition from fellow Japanese manufacturers in the form of the quirky-looking yet robust Nissan Micra and Mitsubishi Colt. All three make a style statement, but are also practical and reliable.

TOYOTA YARIS



TOYOTA'S original mould-breaking supermini (pictured) was replaced in 2006, but the second generation car has built upon its reputation for space within eye-catching dimensions; a Yaris of any age makes a decent used buy. The original also spawned the hugely versatile Verso estate-cum-MPV. The Yaris driving experience is classy too, but the years are becoming less kind to the interior design and visual quality of the original car despite the trendsetting sliding rear seats.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

NISSAN MICRA



BORING Nissan? Well, the current Micra has blown that myth apart (pictured). This is the supermini that says you don't have to conform to style to be space-efficient and you don't need a French badge to be chic – although Renault now owns Nissan. The Micra still turns heads and looks 'right' in three or five-door form. It's affordable and reliable, available with excellent diesels and marketed with stylish trim in the dearer versions and there are even some performance models.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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Career Opportunities

Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer

Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

Section Manager Construction Craft

08/12

37 hrs per week, salary starting at £33,858 per annum

Temporary Section Manager Equine, Animal Care, Veterinary Services and Environmental Conservation

09/04

37 hours per week, salary starting from £33,858 per annum

Fixed term post up to 11 months, maternity cover

07/87

Lecturer Animal Care and Land Based

07/30

37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum

Lecturer Media Theory

08/53

18.5 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Lecturer Key Skills (to Automotive Engineering students)

07/30

37 or 2 x 18.5 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum (pro rata for part time posts)

08/140

Trainer Demonstrator Public Services

37 hours per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting at £18,963 pro rata per annum

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 8th June 2009 at 12 noon

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Close to City Centre
- Sports Hall & Gym
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Staff Discount Scheme

www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies

CALL
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



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98 Bells Lane, Hoo, Rochester, Kent, ME3 9HU

Tel: 01634 250523

PART-TIME EXPERIENCED DISPENSER WITH RECEPTIONIST SKILLS REQUIRED

GP Dispensing Practice 20 hours per week Mon-Fri, NVQ level 2 qualification in dispensing essential. Must be able to work without supervision and have own transport.

Must be willing to cover holidays and sickness.

Closing date: 19 June 2009

Contact: Mrs Julie Allen – Julie.allen@nch.nhs.net

Nicholas James Care Homes Ltd,
Head Office, Dale Road, Southfleet, Kent DA13 9NX

REGISTERED NURSES LEVEL 1

Required by the above company for a nursing home Near Canterbury. Full and Part Time positions available. For details please contact:

Pauline Matthews, Manager – Tel 01227 458116
Email: managerharbledown@njch.co.uk

ALSO REQUIRED – ASSISTANT MANAGER EASTFIELD RESIDENTIAL HOME, MAIDSTONE

Minimum qualification NVQ111 with preferred experience in Dementia Care. Salary negotiable. For details contact:

Tina Thomas – Mob 07707038230
Email: Tina.Thomas@njch.co.uk

To advertise in this section **01303 817040**



changing lives
reducing crime

nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders.

nacro Services in Kent and Medway offers vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19 years/adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate raise self-esteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment.

As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people.

We have the following vacancies:

TEAM LEADER (PUBLIC SERVICES/OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES)

£21,584 (Inc Labour Market Uplift)

We are looking for a motivated individual to develop and deliver a public services/outdoor activities course primarily through our e2e Programme.

You will possess the appropriate skills to engage young people in sport and physical activity to increase their participation and progression. You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to ensure take up of the course. The post will be based at our Chatham Centre.

TRAINER

£19,658 (Inc Labour Market Uplift)

We hold contracts for Entry to Employment (e2e) and Schools to deliver programmes which engage and develop young people in order that they may progress into Employment, Training or Further Education.

We are looking for an individual to join our staff team who is enthusiastic, lively and creative. You will be someone with experience/qualifications in Personal and Social areas preferably childcare and/or health so that we can expand our programme for young people. The post will be based at our Chatham Centre.

We are opening our new Pathways Centre in Chatham and are looking for the following staff:

CONSTRUCTION TRAINER

£19,658 (Inc Labour Market Uplift)

We are looking for a skilled craftsman (preferably with some brick work skills), to join our successful construction team to deliver training and assess learners to ensure that they meet the required standards as laid down by awarding bodies.

PROJECT WORKER/ADMIN SUPPORT

£21,584 (Inc Labour Market Uplift)

We are looking for a motivated individual to work with the Construction Development Officer and team providing administration and also liaising with referring agencies, work experience placements and funding bodies. You need to have excellent administration and communication skills.

ADMINISTRATION APPRENTICE

Salary: £85 per week

nacro are seeking to recruit an Administration Apprentice to provide administrative assistance to support the Project Worker/Admin in the new Construction Building. This will include general office duties including answering the telephone, Faxing, Filing, Photocopying and to assist with some data imports. Closing date for all the above posts is 8 June 2009 with interviews being held week commencing 15 June 2009. Contact Colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call on 01634 818305 for an application pack.

Nacro is an equal opportunities employer and aims to eliminate unfair discrimination in its selection process.

Nacro is a registered Charity No. 226171

Join Kent's award-winning design studio

Designer/Visualiser

Part-time/Full-time

An opportunity has arisen for a creative, self motivated team player who is able to work under pressure to deadline, to join our busy studio department.

You will be expected to have an eye-for-detail and produce innovative visual ideas for new and existing clients, along with having the speed and creative edge to design and produce quality finished artwork for our in-house marketing material and online products.

You will need the relevant mac experience with an in-depth knowledge of QuarkXPress, Photoshop and Illustrator. You will also be expected to be flexible within your working hours.

To apply for this position, please send your CV and covering letter, with two examples from your portfolio to:

Anna Harman, Studio Manager, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

Or email: anna.harman@kosmedia.co.uk



Award Winning Company

To advertise in this section **01303 817040**

Exciting job opportunities with Rank plc

A bright future with G Casino...



UK'S LEADING CASINO OPERATOR

As the UK's leading casino operator we are committed to the development of the gaming industry. To do this we are looking for enthusiastic out-going customer focused employees to join us at our state of the art G Casino development at Westwood Cross in Thanet. Since our launch last year we have gone from strength to strength and are now having to extend our hours and take on new staff to cope with our growing popularity. As well as extending our opening hours we are launching our gallery restaurant in the coming weeks and are looking to increase our team in both the gaming and food areas of our business. So why not join our team and be part of a Kent business success story.

SENIOR CHEF

We require a senior chef to work in our new gallery restaurant, this is an exciting opportunity for someone who can lead and motivate a team of food professionals. Creative input on menus and the customer experience will be welcomed as well as long term career prospects of working for a plc.

This position will require the successful candidate to only work one single shift a day (this will be a late hours shift only) five days a week.

The salary is negotiable commensurate with your skills and ability but this is a senior position and you must be able to lead a team.

EXPERIENCED CROUPIERS / CUSTOMER FOCUSED TRAINEE CROUPIERS

Due to our extended opening hours and growing demand we are looking to recruit experienced Croupiers who want to be part of this exciting and growing casino experience. The successful applicants will have a strong customer focus and must be able to work as part of a team.

Salary will be commensurate with your grade, skills and customer service skills. We will consider trainees providing they can demonstrate outstanding customer service as we will put you on a intensive training programme as a Croupier.

Catalogue Distributors

Required

£50-£300 per week

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The introduction of the Government backed scrappage scheme has been a tremendous success here at FG Barnes (Maidstone) who is part of the Barnes Group, a family owned motor dealer group based in South East. We are now looking for experienced sales professionals to join our busy sales team.

As part of the Vauxhall & Chevrolet Dealer network committed to quality through innovation we offer an attractive salary structure, exciting career opportunities and a secure future. If you are ambitious and want to join a retailer aspiring to become the market leader in the area through customer satisfaction, then please write to us with your career history and current salary including bonus and benefit details to: General Manager, FG Barnes (Maidstone) Ltd, Sutton Road, Park Wood, Maidstone ME15 9YF.

Email: enquiries@fgbarnes.co.uk



VAUXHALL

Equal opportunities employer, please no agencies



To find out more or apply call Deb Armstrong G Casino Administrator 01843 579999 or email your CV with covering letter to: manager_gc-thanet@rank.com

or postal applications can be sent to Deb Armstrong G Casino Westwood Cross, Margate Road, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 2BF



Westwood Cross

Margate Road,
Broadstairs, Kent CT10 2BF
01843 579999

www.gcasino.co.uk

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MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Programme Area Leader in Beauty

Ref: PAL01

Salary: £30,204- £33,935 per annum

We are looking to recruit an exceptional candidate to provide support to the Head of School on all Staffing, Student, Curriculum and Quality issues. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a significant level of competence in Teaching and Learning, have experience of action planning and have good negotiating/communication skills. The post holder will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Foundation Programmes

Ref: P0567

Salary: £25,895- £29,622 per annum

We are looking to recruit an outstanding individual to teach and participate in the development of the Life and Work Skills for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The successful candidate will have good communication skills, a patient and mature attitude and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Health and Social Care

Ref: P0063

Salary: £25,895- £29,622 per annum

We are looking for a passionate candidate to be involved in the delivery of edexcel Healthcare programmes. The successful candidate will have proven knowledge and experience within Healthcare environments and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Media

Ref: P0354

Salary: £25,895- £29,622 per annum

The successful candidate will teach on Media programmes, providing programme management and curriculum tutorial support as required. A Degree or HND in a Media Discipline and a creative attitude coupled with excellent communication skills is essential. The post holder will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Animal Care

Ref: P0355

Salary: £20,700- £25,309 per annum

The primary role of the post holder will be to teach on and participate in the development of a range and levels of Animal Care courses. Courses are offered from Entry Level to Level Three. The Higher Diploma Environment and Land Based will start in September. A relevant qualification in Animal Care and previous experience is essential and the successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. Equine experience would be welcomed, though not essential. Animal care is a vibrant department and all courses are popular and oversubscribed.

Lecturer in IT – Level 1

Ref: P0395

Salary: £25,895- £29,622 per annum

We wish to appoint a lecturer in Information Technology to teach across a range of BTEC and Diploma programmes to post 16 students at our Medway, Gillingham campus, especially at level 1 and including Functional Skills. They must either have or be prepared to undergo training for a teaching qualification and be able to manage and coordinate a team to provide and develop a coherent programme of study suitable for these levels of student.

Lecturer in IT – Level 2 and 3

Ref: P0366

Salary: £25,895- £29,622 per annum

We wish to appoint a lecturer in Information Technology to teach across a range of BTEC and Diploma programmes to post 16 students at our Medway, Gillingham campus at level 2 and level 3. They must either have or be prepared to undergo training for a teaching qualification and be able to manage and coordinate a team to provide and develop a coherent programme of study suitable for these levels of student. They must also be prepared to teach Functional Skills at level 2.

Technician in Hair

Ref: P0296

Salary: £13,544 - £16,392 per annum

The ideal candidate will be able to provide technical support to staff and students and will be responsible for setting-up and providing classroom support. Experience in the industry would be advantageous.

Technician in Building and Civil Engineering Ref: P0149

Salary: £15,607 - £19,127 per annum

The primary role of the post holder will be to carry out technician duties, assist tutors and learners in all practical aspects of construction and perform other technician work across the school.

Closing date – Wednesday 17 June

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and anyone applying for work with the College is expected to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer



KOS Media is a highly successful newspaper publisher within Kent, that has received many awards from the newspaper industry for the innovative Kent on Sunday, Kent on Saturday and numerous mid-week newspapers.

We now have vacancies for experienced

Mac Operators

We are looking for experienced, confident and self-motivated team players, preferably with newspaper experience, who are seeking to further their career within the industry.

The individual must have relevant Mac experience including knowledge of Quark, Photoshop and Illustrator. The ability to touch-type would be advantageous.

The candidate should be able to work under pressure, meet strict deadlines and be eager to work within a team environment to ensure the smooth operation of our fast-paced production department.

Hours will be variable and include weekend working.

Previous applicants need not apply.

To apply, send a CV and covering letter to:



Award winning publications
www.kentnews.co.uk

Personnel
KOS Media
Apple Barn
Hythe Road, Smeeth
Kent TN25 6SR
or email: personnel@kosmedia.co.uk

Gravesend Grammar School for Girls

A Specialist Science and Language College



Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 0JE
Telephone: 01474 352896 Fax: 01474 331195 Website: www.gsgs.org.uk
email: enquiries@gsgs.org.uk

BUSINESS MANAGER

**KSS Band 12 (£41,112-£48,152)
Required for September 2009**

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and committed Business Manager to join the Senior Leadership Team and make a key strategic contribution to the continued development of the school.

The successful candidate will be highly motivated with superb interpersonal skills who can take the initiative and motivate others. You will also need to have a high level of experience in administration, financial management, project management and team leadership. Experience of working in education would be an advantage.

By 2010 the school will have undergone major redevelopment as part of the 'Building Schools for the Future' initiative and we would expect you to take a very 'hands on' role in this important project.

The School has a high profile for achievement locally and nationally and prides itself on a strong record of internal professional development. Academic standards are exceptionally high (Ofsted 2008) and the School has acquired Investor in People and Investor in Careers status. We were identified as one of the particularly successful schools in the HMI Chief Inspector's Report for 2002-03 and we have been a Specialist Science College since September 2004, adding a second specialism in Languages in April 2009.

We welcome informal visits and would be proud to show you around our successful school. To arrange this please contact the Headteacher's PA, Mrs Maureen Tong-Ralphs on 01474 352896.

To request an application pack please contact Mrs Maureen Tong-Ralphs, PA to the Headteacher. Completed forms should be returned by **Monday 22nd June 2009** to Mrs Wilson, Headteacher.

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

www.gsgs.org.uk



Career Opportunities

Sheppery College is an equal opportunities employer



Sheppery College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success.

Trainer Demonstrator Construction

Ref: 07/07

18.5 hours per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting at £18,963 pro rata per annum

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 8th June 2009 at 12 noon.

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.



Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to Town Centre

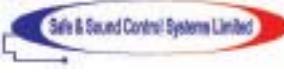


www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies



[01227 811282 \(24 hr answerphone\)](http://01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone))





BMS COMMISSIONING ENGINEER

The following are minimum pre-requisites :-

Been employed as a Commissioning Engineer with at least 3 years on site experience
Full certified Trend training (IQ2, IQ3, and IQ6)
Experience of commissioning networked BMS systems

Involves writing strategies, testing, pre-commissioning of software and control panels, commissioning completed installations and demonstration to the end user. Ability to trouble shoot, fault find and modify control panels is a must.

PROJECTS MANAGER

The following are minimum pre-requisites :-

Been employed as a Projects Manager with at least 3 years relevant experience
Able to coordinate and manage site installation activities including sub-contractors
Experience of networked BMS systems
Ability to manage all aspects of a project including budget and cost control reporting to Director level
Both roles require travel throughout the South East, a good grounding in electronics and/or electrical installation with a working knowledge of wiring regulations and health & safety.
You will be highly motivated and flexible with a positive attitude and the ability to work on own initiative, a clean driving license and CSCS card.

CV's can be emailed to recruitment@safandsoundcontrols.com or posted to
Unit 22 Chislet Close, Lakesview International Business Park, Canterbury, Kent CT3 4LB

Due to continued success and expansion we have two immediate opportunities to join our friendly, dynamic and pro-active team.

COOKE & CO.

Cooke & Co Estate Agents are looking for an
EXPERIENCED SALES NEGOTIATOR

to work full time at our busy Broadstairs office. The position includes weekend work and offers an attractive salary, bonus structure and commission package, depending on experience.

CVs to Mrs Jose Barnett, Cooke & Co,
56 High Street, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 1JT
or email to jose@cookeandco.com

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in this section

01303
817040



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The market is turning, an excellent time to get into Estate Agency.

Your Move is one of the largest estate agents in the UK. We are looking for energetic, enthusiastic ambitious individuals to join our Medway team. Office based you will register buyers, sellers, arrange viewings, negotiate offers and deal with all other aspects of the property industry. We reward progression to our top performing staff. In house training, paid holiday, basic and commission.

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You will need customer service/sales experience, full driving licence and the ability to work to targets whilst delivering the very best customer service.

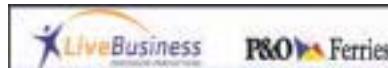
For more information contact: joe.jenkins@your-move.co.uk,
Your Move, 171 High Street, Rochester, ME1 1EH.



Have another exciting opportunity for a
LEGAL SECRETARY
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The closing date for applications is
1 June 2009
www.parrylaw.co.uk



P&O Ferries

Children's Club Leaders & Character Performer

Required for Dover-Calais Ferry contracts.
Must be available to work 5 days per week, weekends included and have accommodation in the Dover area.
Applicants will be subject to a CRB disclosure.

jobs@livebusiness.co.uk

Live Business Customer Protection, 8 Square Roger Key, Whitstable Kent, ME11 3TG

KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors.

BASED FAVERSHAM

Executive Assistant – Development & Marketing

£18,937 - £23,473 • 37 HOURS PER WEEK

As part of a dynamic and driven team, your role will be central to the development process: preparing, producing, proof-reading and collating tender documentation and presentations. You will also gather information, coordinate tender timetables and create and manage a development database. You will be involved in marketing KCA by helping produce and coordinate marketing activity, managing the sign-off process and helping with invoicing.

You will also provide general support: drafting and producing a wide range of correspondence, arranging meetings, managing diaries, maintaining files and records, managing messages and acting as the first point of contact to all callers and visitors to the team.

To thrive in this role you will need exceptional written and verbal communication skills and the ability to use Microsoft Word and PowerPoint to create well set-out and engaging documents and presentations. Attention to detail, excellent proof-reading ability and good time and deadline management are essential. You will possess strong interpersonal and influencing skills, be flexible, proactive and forward-thinking, creative about gaining information, professional and remain calm under pressure. Ref: 522.

Should you wish to discuss the role informally, please call Karen Tyrell, Assistant Director of Development on 01795 590635 on Mon/Tue/Wed during weeks commencing 1 and 8 June.

Database/Administrative Assistant – Human Resources

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Should you wish to discuss the role informally, please call Peter Gallagher, Director of Human Resources & Estates on 01795 590635 between 9.00am and 12.00pm on 2, 5 or 8 June.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from <http://www.kca.org.uk/pages/vacancies.html> or email recruitment@kca.org.uk. Alternatively, write to KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT or call 01795 590635. Please quote the appropriate reference number.

Closing date: Monday 15 June.

Interview date: Tuesday 30 June.

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Applicant: Adrian Padfield

Name of Premises: Kit Coty Brasserie, 15 Old Chatham Road, Bluebell Hill, Aylesford

Applicant: Allan Casey

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below. Giles Adey Head of Registration First Floor, Invicta House Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX





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CRICKET

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Kent Cricket League Division OneLordswood CC 1st XI v
The Mote CC 1st XI

THE MOTE were leapfrogged by Lordswood at the top of Division One after their opponents won off the final ball of the game in a thriller at Martin Grove.

Matt Iles and Daniel Masters combined to score the critical runs at the death to clinch victory by three wickets.

The Mote went into the game unbeaten in their opening three fixtures of the season and they looked well set to extend the run after posting a competitive score.

Opener Tom Harvey provided the backbone to the innings, scoring 104 in a knock which included 13 fours and a six. He put on 117 with James Hodgson to make the Lords bowlers toil in the sunshine.

A quick fire 24 from Laurence Waters late on helped the visitors to a decent 226 for 4 from their 50 overs.

In reply, Lordswood were in trouble at 99 for 5, but were rescued by Chris Thompson. He fell just four short of a century, but the speed at which the runs came (102 balls) got Lordswood back in the game.

By the time Thompson was bowled by Kym Daley the Lords were just 18 runs short of victory. With the balls running out, Matt Iles and Masters held their nerve to see the Lords home off the final ball.

Mote lose in a final ball thriller against Lords



HITTING OUT: The Mote's batsmen put on a good show but it wasn't enough to earn them a win against Lordswood at the weekend

Picture: JONATHAN FENN

SCOREBOARD**The Mote**

	Runs
Umesh Valjee ct Cruz b Jiles	10
Tom Harvey ct Cruz b M Iles	104
James Hodgson st Cruz b R Cross	56
Matthew White st Cruz b Jiles	3
Laurence Waters not out	24
James Marriott not out	1
Ed De Lucy did not bat	-
Warren Jackson did not bat	-
Glen Aukett did not bat	-
Kym Daley did not bat	-
Alex Fordham did not bat	-
Extras (4b 4lb 19w 1nb)	226
Total (4 wickets, 50 overs)	226

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Matt Iles	4	0	24	1
James Iles	10	1	62	2
Daniel Masters	5	0	15	0
Richard Cross	15	3	35	1
Darren Scott	13	0	74	0
Chris Thompson	3	0	8	0

Lordswood

	Runs
Alan Patten ct Jackson b Aukett	21
Lyndon Lockhart lbw b Waters	15
Peter Stock ct Fordham b Waters	5
Chris Thompson b Daley	96
Jeremy Greaves lbw b Aukett	16
Ethen Cruz b Aukett	1
Daren Scott ct Hodgson b Daley	35
Matt Iles not out	13
Daniel Masters not out	6
James Iles did not bat	19
Extras (5b 7lb 4w 3nb)	19
Total (7 wickets, 50 overs)	227

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Kym Daley	10	0	31	2
Laurence Waters	9	1	60	3
Glen Aukett	15	1	58	3
James Hodgson	15	0	52	0
Tom Harvey	1	0	14	0

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP**KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR**

Addington Village 1st XI v Rodmersham 1st XI

OPTING to bowl first must have seemed like a good idea to Rodmersham when they bowled Mark Rimmer before a run had been scored, but 65 from James Tooze and a magnificent, unbeaten 105 from Neil Scott helped Addington to 266 for 5 from 50 overs, with Mat Bruton also chipping in with 44 not out.

Duncan Brown took 3 for 54, but Rodmersham weighed anchor and settled for a losing draw, finishing on 213 for 5.

Addington Village

	Runs
Mark Rimmer	0
James Tooze	65
Will Jeffery	15
Neil Miller	17
Neil Scott	105
Duncan Brown	0
Mat Bruton	44
Joe Pigott	not out
Ross McDermott	not out
Steve Merrals	not out
Dan Walton	not out
Extras	(1lb 5lb 4w)
Total	20
	(5 wickets, 50 overs)
Bowlers	
Sandeep Rodrigo	0
Darren Nokes	13
Nazoomi Azhar	15
Dylan Emmett	5
Sushant Karangutkar	2

	W
Sandeep Rodrigo	1
Darren Nokes	1
Nazoomi Azhar	2
Dylan Emmett	0
Sushant Karangutkar	0

Rodmersham

	Runs
Dave Cogger	c Scott b Brown
Robert Horne	c & b Scott
Jamie Horne	lbw b Scott
Sandeep Rodrigo	ct Scott b Brown
Liam Foster	ct Walton b Brown
Dylan Emmett	not out
Lee Jackson	not out
Darren Nokes	not out
Nazoomi Azhar	not out
Sushant Karangutkar	not out
Christopher Colman	not out
Extras	(8b 5lb 9w)
Total	22
	(5 wickets, 50 overs)
Bowlers	
Joe Pigott	0
Ross McDermott	6
Mat Bruton	5
Dan Walton	8
Neil Scott	13
Duncan Brown	11
Steve Merrals	2

	W
Joe Pigott	0
Ross McDermott	0
Mat Bruton	0
Dan Walton	1
Neil Scott	2
Duncan Brown	3
Steve Merrals	0

KENT FEEDER LEAGUE EAST 1A

Yalding 1st XI v Deal Victoria

ANTHONY Shepherd took 4 for 32 and Jumshad Haider 3 and 40 as Yalding bowled Deal out for 144 in 33.4 overs at The Kintons.

Dushyanth Gnanapiragamas also took 2 for 46 as the visitors were dismissed for an eminently gettable target.

Yalding's chase was bolstered by a half-century opening stand between Shumshair Haider and Alistair Ratcliffe and Scott Walker (50 not out) steered them home in the 50th over.

Deal Victoria & Barns Close

	Runs
Andrew Furness	ct Walker b Shepherd
Austen Marsh	b Haider
Charles Mailli	ct Ratcliffe b Gnanapiragamas
Sam Killip	c & b Gnanapiragamas
Robbie Brannan	b Shepherd
Simon Farrow	ct Hutchins b Robinson
Matthew Carley	b Shepherd
Matthew Hudson	lbw b Haider
Alex Hinkins	b Haider
Scott McNamara	b Shepherd
Graham McNamara	not out
Extras	(2b 2lb 3w)
Total	7
	(all out, 33.4 overs)
Bowlers	
Jumshad Haider	9
Dushyanth Gnanapiragamas	1
Anthony Shepherd	84
Andrew Robinson	6

	W
Andrew Furness	1
Austen Marsh	0
Charles Mailli	2
Sam Killip	2
Robbie Brannan	1
Simon Farrow	12
Matthew Carley	8
Matthew Hudson	6
Alex Hinkins	23
Scott McNamara	10
Graham McNamara	4

Yalding

	Runs
Shumshair Haider	lbw b Mailli
Alistair Ratcliffe	ct Mailli b Brannan
Scott Walker	not out
Graham Hutchins	ct Furness b Mailli
James Dugmore	lbw b Hinkins
John Ryan	not out
Anthony Shepherd	did not bat
Jumshad Haider	did not bat
Dushyanth Gnanapiragamas	did not bat
Fergus Carty	did not bat
Andrew Robinson	did not bat
Extras	(2b 4lb 5w 1nb)
Total	12
	(4 wickets, 49.2 overs)
Bowlers	
Alex Hinkins	72
Scott McNamara	11
Graham McNamara	11
Charles Mailli	12
Sam Killip	3
Robbie Brannan	5

	W
Alex Hinkins	21
Scott McNamara	15
Graham McNamara	11
Charles Mailli	12
Sam Killip	2
Robbie Brannan	16

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FIVE 2ND XI

Offham 2nd XI v Gravensend RFC 2nd XI

OPENER Gary Evans made 57 and Adam Kent 36 as Offham posted a competitive total of 223 for 9 from 50 overs, but with nobody other than Evans reaching the half-century mark, the score looked a little short.

Philip Carpenter removed Gravensend opener John Hollands relatively cheaply, but despite two wickets for Ben Regan, Adrian Stone's unbeaten 79 steered the visitors through in the 50th over, with six wickets down.

Offham

	Runs
Gary Evans	ct Bradford b Singh
Peter McMonigle	b Allen
Adam Kent	b Asif Malik
Neil Willis	lbw b Asif Malik
Duncan Brook	b Asif Malik
Ben Regan	c & b Bradford
Andrew Prescott	b Bradford
Phil Blakelock	ct Stone b Allen
Nigel Stoodley	b Bradford
Nathan Brook	not out
Philip Carpenter	not out
Extras	(4lb 10w 2nb)
Total	16
	(9 wickets, 50 overs)
Bowlers	
Jason Allen	0
Adrian Stone	6
Graham Stone	4
Mohammed Asif Malik	9
James Bradford	12
Harpreet Singh	5

	W
Jason Allen	4
Adrian Stone	1
Graham Stone	0
Mohammed Asif Malik	3
James Bradford	2
Harpreet Singh	0
Philip Carpenter	1
Nigel Stoodley	1
Nathan Brook	1
Andrew Prescott	1
Phil Blakelock	1
Ben Regan	1
Philip Carpenter	1
James Bradford	1
Harpreet Singh	1
Philip Carpenter	1
Nigel Stoodley	1
Nathan Brook	1
Andrew Prescott	1
Phil Blakelock	1
Ben Regan	1
Philip Carpenter	1
James Bradford	1
Harpreet Singh	1
Philip Carpenter	1
Nigel Stoodley	1
Nathan Brook	1
Andrew Prescott	1
Phil Blakelock	1
Ben Regan	1
Philip Carpenter	1
James Bradford	1
Harpreet Singh	1
Philip Carpenter	1
Nigel Stoodley	1
Nathan Brook	1
Andrew Prescott	1
Phil Blakelock	1
Ben Regan	1
Philip Carpenter	1
James Bradford	1
Harpreet Singh	1
Philip Carpenter	1
Nigel Stoodley	1
Nathan Brook	1
Andrew Prescott	1
Phil Blakelock	1
Ben Regan	1
Philip Carpenter	1
James Bradford	1
Harpreet Singh	1
Philip Carpenter	1
Nigel Stoodley	1
Nathan Brook	1
Andrew Prescott	1
Phil Blakelock	1
Ben Regan	1
Philip Carpenter	1
James Bradford	1
Harpreet Singh	1
Philip Carpenter	1

Reeves and Farrance reunite for TT return



RARING TO GO: Tim Reeves is ready to take on the Isle of Man TT course once again in a bid to join the list of winners

THE top step of the podium is all multiple world sidecar champion Tim Reeves is thinking about as he bids to win the Isle of Man TT in only his second attempt this weekend.

The Maidstone-based racer will reunite with Tenterden passenger Patrick Farrance to tackle the 102nd running of the famous road race.

The pair stunned spectators on their debut last year by mastering the tricky 37.7-mile course to record a third place finish. The result was the best rookie finish for 30 years. Reeves described his third place last year as his greatest achievement, despite having three world titles to his name.

MOTORSPORT

After tasting success last year, he is determined to build on his TT portfolio and clinch the title, adding to his growing list of achievements in the sport.

However, he will be hoping the mechanical problems, which halted his progress in World Sidecar Championship last month, have been cured.

Practice sessions around the notorious road course began on Saturday and continue throughout this week. The first race of two will be held on Saturday afternoon.

Mercer marvels at speed as he takes to Isle of Man

MOTORSPORT

■ BY TOM HOWARD

STEVE Mercer has been pleasantly surprised by his pace in the opening practice session of his debut in the notorious Isle of Man TT.

The Maidstone rider took to the famous 37.7-mile road course at racing speeds for the first time on Saturday. The 27-year-old, who is taking part in a three-year apprenticeship deal for the event, was delighted to finally get on the course after studying DVDs and learning the course via computer games.

He admitted the danger of the event entered his mind in the opening laps, but he soon settled into a rhythm. Mercer believes he will be fully up to speed in time for the first race on Saturday and was astonished by the concept of racing at speed of 180mph on a road course.

He said: "It is absolutely fantastic to finally get out there and complete some laps. I have surprised myself with my pace and I really feel at home here."

"I have to admit when I went out on the first lap it was a little daunting, but I soon got to grips with it. It is certainly easier than playing it on a Playstation. I can't stay on the bike on the computer game. I can't believe that it is possible to go this fast on a road course without it being illegal."



ASTONISHED: Steve Mercer was shocked at the speeds clocked as he took part in his first practice session ahead of his debut race in the Isle of Man TT

Mercer will take part in a number of timed practice sessions this week building up to the first race. With this year's event his debut TT, every session is vital to gain experience and confidence on the circuit, which has claimed more than 200 lives in its 102-year history.

He said: "It is all about confidence. Even though the session was untimed I know my pace was well off the leaders, but I was getting faster and faster as the session went on."

"I think 95 per cent of the corners are taken blind, so if you have the confidence to turn these you will record a fast time. Building my confidence up is the main task this week."



Mercer will complete a qualifying session today and tomorrow before he embarks on the first of two superbike races this Saturday.

FOOTBALL



HOME FOR NOW: Maidstone will play at Homelands

Ashford look set to play host to Stones

CONFIRMATION is expected this week that Maidstone United will be playing their home games at Ashford Town's Homelands ground next season.

The Stones' first confirmed friendly will be a nominal away game against Ashford on Tuesday, July 21, followed two days later by a trip to Salters Lane to play Faversham Town.

On Tuesday, July 28 United are away to Chatham Town – the closest they will play to the county town all season – and on August 8 they face Ramsgate at Southwood.

The club are looking to play four further friendlies, with the first of these on Tuesday, July 14.

The constitution of the Ryman Premier Division has been announced and as expected, Margate have been handed a reprieve from relegation.

The Stones' longest road trip next year will be to Nyewood Lane, the home of Bognor Regis Town, who were relegated from the Conference South.

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